

Good afternoon, Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I am **Shelly Kelly, a person in recovery**, I am here today to express concern about Proposed S.B. 666, **An Act Concerning Safe Residential Treatment Facilities for Effective Recovery.**

I have been in recovery since January 25, 2005, whereas before, I never had 2 days. I did everything differently this time.

I am confident in stressing the importance of sober houses. I lived in a sober house called the 'farm house Shift, LLC' for 11 months before moving out on my own on May 1, 2006. I had gone into a treatment program and towards the end, I was not ready to move out on my own. The owners of the Farm House are Al & Eileen Hamon and they are my 'sobriety parents' and do an outstanding service for those that are learning to deal with real life in the outside world. They taught me to get a sponsor...and call her, to get up and go to work everyday, to pay my rent and so many other things necessary to survive on my own.

I am very comfortable in stating that without going to their sober house, I would not be here today with a strong recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this extremely important issue. **Please do not put in place a statute that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons who are striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. Please consider working with DMHAS and the recovery community to accommodate community needs."**