

**Testimony in Support of H8040**

An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – Zoning Ordinances  
House Municipal Government & Housing Committee

Chairperson Casey and members of the Committee,

My name is Colleen Daley Ndoye, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Project Weber/RENEW, a Rhode Island-based nonprofit organization that provides harm reduction services, recovery support, and clinical care to people with substance use disorder and people in recovery across Rhode Island.

Project Weber/RENEW strongly supports House Bill 8040, which would prohibit cities and towns from enacting zoning ordinances that place restrictions on residential recovery houses that are not applicable to other residential homes.

Recovery housing is a critical component of the recovery ecosystem in Rhode Island. Each year, Project Weber/RENEW places and pays for housing for approximately 500 individuals who are living in or seeking placement in recovery houses. For many people, these homes provide an essential bridge between treatment and long-term stability. When individuals complete detox or residential treatment, they often need a supportive environment where they can continue building recovery and establish routines that promote stability. Through our work, we have seen how effective this model can be: many clients, including current staff members, have been through this model.

However, the availability of recovery housing is increasingly threatened by restrictive zoning policies. House Bill 8040 helps protect certified recovery houses, their operators, and residents from discriminatory policies that can conflict with federal protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act, as well as existing state fire code and zoning laws.

Without action, these types of restrictive zoning practices could lead to the closure of many recovery homes across the state, resulting in the loss of hundreds of recovery housing beds. At a time when Rhode Island already faces a severe housing shortage, particularly for people exiting treatment or early in recovery, losing these homes would significantly limit pathways to stability and recovery.

With the support of this legislation, recovery houses can continue to serve as stable home environments for many Rhode Islanders who urgently need these supports.

We urge the Committee to support House Bill 8040 and help ensure that recovery housing remains available and protected as an essential part of Rhode Island's recovery infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Colleen Daley Ndoye

Project Weber/RENEW  
Providence, Rhode Island

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**WEBER\*RENEW**

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**WEBER\*RENEW**

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