



3/16/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

**On behalf of OpenDoors, I am writing in strong support of House Bill 8040, which would prohibit cities and towns from enacting zoning ordinances that restrict residential recovery houses. As an organization that operates supportive housing and recovery-focused residential programs, we see every day how critical stable, home-like environments are to long-term recovery and successful reintegration into the community.**

**Recovery residences function as true households. Residents live together, share responsibilities, cook meals, and support one another as a family unit. This structure is intentional and essential—it promotes independence, accountability, and healing in a way that institutional or facility-style environments cannot. These homes are not treatment centers, shelters, or commercial enterprises. They are residences where individuals rebuild stability, develop healthy routines, and strengthen recovery supports.**

**Individuals in recovery are protected under federal fair housing and disability laws, which recognize the importance of equal access to housing and prohibit discrimination. Rhode Island law has also recognized certified recovery residences as households rather than congregate facilities. However, inconsistent zoning and regulatory interpretations have created barriers that threaten the viability of recovery homes and risk reducing access to recovery housing across the state.**

**House Bill 8040 is important because it would provide clarity and consistency statewide. By preventing municipalities from imposing restrictive zoning rules that single out recovery residences, the bill helps ensure that people in recovery can continue to access safe, supportive housing in community settings. Maintaining these home-like environments is not only consistent with best practices—it is essential to recovery success.**

**At OpenDoors, we have seen firsthand how recovery housing transforms lives. When individuals have a stable place to live that supports accountability, connection, and dignity, they are far more likely to maintain recovery, gain employment, rebuild relationships, and become active members of their communities. Protecting access to these homes is an investment in both individual recovery and public wellbeing.**

**For these reasons, OpenDoors strongly supports passage of House Bill 8040 and urges policymakers to ensure that recovery residences can operate as the residential homes they are intended to be.**

Sincerely,  
Patrick Westfall  
Co-Executive Director  
OpenDoors