

Safe SHORES Act of 2024

Safe and Secure Housing for Opioid Recovery and Enduring Stability

Senators Chris Coons and Shelly Moore Capito

Recovery housing facilities are a safe haven for Americans suffering from substance abuse disorders and are essential in combatting the opioid epidemic. These facilities offer decent, safe, and sanitary housing to those most in need and provide medical and counseling services essential for treating addiction. They can also support residents with career development programming and emotional support to ensure they have an enduring recovery.

Through the *Support Act* in 2018, Congress created the pilot Recovery Housing Program (RHP) at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to award states disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis with funds to rapidly acquire, build, or rehabilitate recovery housing facilities. To date, RHP has successfully expanded the network of recovery housing facilities and supported more people nationwide.

RHP's authorization expired in 2023, and with the opioid epidemic worsening and housing costs rising, the program is needed now more than ever. Congress should reauthorize this program, provide more resources, and update the program so that it meets the struggles our communities are facing today.

The Safe SHORES Act of 2024:

Reauthorizes RHP until 2029 and provides updates to increase the flexibility and efficacy of the program. Specifically, the legislation would:

- **Increase authorized funding.** The bill would authorize no less than \$50 million per year, and the formula for allocating funds among states would be modernized to ensure sustained support.
- **Give states and grantees increased flexibility.** States would be allowed to distribute funds as they need and allow grantees to cover more costs associated with providing housing.
- **Produce best practices.** States would be encouraged to award grants to facilities that meet state standards of accreditation and have robust workforce development and emotional support programs. States would also be encouraged to help grantees navigate local zoning and administrative requirements which can stall construction or rehabilitation of recovery housing.
- **Require Congressional reporting.** HUD would be required to produce an annual report that summarizes the disbursement of RHP awards and progress of projects, provides data on the number of residents served, identifies strategies that have produced best outcomes, and produces an interagency strategy between HUD, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture to promote the effective expansion of recovery housing across the nation.

ENDORSEMENTS: *National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers, National Alliance of Recovery Residences, National Rural Health Association, Bipartisan Policy Center Action*

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