



April 7th, 2025

Opposition to the Elimination of Free-Standing Room and Board (FSRB)

To Members of the Minnesota Legislature,

I am writing to voice serious concern regarding SF3054/HF2434 Article 4; Section 35. The proposal seeks to eliminate new Free-Standing Room and Board (FSRB) providers effective July 1, 2025, with the full phaseout by July 1, 2027. While we understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and the evolving landscape of housing and treatment supports, the abrupt discontinuation of FSRB funding would have a detrimental impact on individuals seeking successful recovery from substance use disorders (SUDs) across the state, specifically those most at risk.

Currently, FSRB represents one of the few viable options available to support individuals with the social determinants of health that are critical to recovery, particularly housing. Without stable housing in early recovery, the likelihood of achieving or sustaining recovery plummets. In many cases, Housing Supports (formerly Group Residential Housing) are not accessible, have long been limited in capacity within the metro, and often fail to offer an environment supportive of abstinence-based recovery.

Recovery residences have an important role to play in the future of supportive housing for individuals with SUDs, and we are eager to collaborate with the state and stakeholders through what we understand will be an upcoming Recovery Residences workgroup. However, now is not the time to eliminate FSRB without a fully viable and accessible alternative in place. Doing so risks widening gaps in care, increasing housing insecurity among vulnerable individuals, and decreasing the successful outcomes treatment providers work tirelessly to provide.

Many providers across Minnesota are investing in solutions that are person-centered, cost-conscious, and focused on long-term wellness. Eliminating FSRB now, while recovery residences are already facing significant instability and operational uncertainty, would be devastating. We urge the legislature to reconsider the timing and impact of this proposal, and to work with providers to explore how FSRB can be reimagined, not removed.

On behalf of our organization and the individuals and families we serve, we ask you to preserve FSRB without change until a more robust and recovery-supportive infrastructure is securely in place. We would welcome the opportunity to be part of that dialogue and solution-building process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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