



**DATE:** February 19, 2026

**NAME:** Lex Arthers

**ORGANIZATION:** Vermont Foundation of Recovery and Recovery Partners of Vermont

**LOCATION:** Middlesex, VT

Good afternoon. My name is Lex Arthers. I live in Middlesex, and I serve as the Community Relations Manager for Vermont Foundation of Recovery (VFOR). VFOR is a proud member organization of Recovery Partners of Vermont.

I am here today to strongly support the Opioid Settlement Advisory Council's recommendations to invest in recovery residences across Vermont. These recommendations include \$1.75 million to maintain the current level of support for a growing number of recovery residence operators, as well as \$200,000 for scholarships to help cover initial fees for individuals entering a recovery residence.

In my role at VFOR, I work closely with individuals and families who are navigating early recovery. I see firsthand how critical stable, supportive housing is during this period. Recovery residences are often the bridge between treatment and independent living, and without them, many people are left with limited options at the exact moment they are trying to rebuild their lives.

Treatment helps someone break free from their addiction in that moment. Recovery helps that person break free from their addiction for life. Recovery residences provide the structure, peer support, accountability, and connection that allow people to take what they learned in treatment and turn it into lasting change. These homes are not just places to live. They are environments where people learn how to show up for themselves and for others every single day.

As Vermont continues to face an overdose crisis, we cannot afford to underinvest in the supports that help people stay well after treatment ends. Recovery supports are the long-term solution, and recovery residences are a cornerstone of that system.

I respectfully urge you to support the Opioid Settlement Advisory Council's recommendations, including \$1.75 million for recovery residence operations and \$200,000 for recovery residence scholarships.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your consideration of this important request.