

A. Sidney Bass, III
5100 Monument Ave. Unit 1115
Richmond. VA. 23230

January 5, 2022

To: Senator or Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly 2022

RE: Oxford Houses of Virginia

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a person in long term recovery from addiction that utilized an Oxford House to provide me a solid footing for rebuilding my life into a respectable condition. Addiction is an insidious disease that impacts people from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. It know no boundaries as to the types of people it effects.

When I recognized that I needed help in dealing with addiction my first step was to admit myself to a treatment center in Nunnely, Tn. It was known as "The Ranch". I spent 10 weeks there and upon leaving I was told to go to 90 meetings in 90 days and get into an Oxford House. My family didn't want anything to do with me and therefore I had nowhere to go and live. When I returned to Richmond in January 2008, I was able to get into an Oxford House near what was then the State Fairgrounds. The members there offered me acceptance and understanding. The system of operations helped me personally grow as each house manages its financial affairs and enforces rules that helps members once again become accountable for their actions.

Thanks to the FMLA act, I was able to return to my job as an assistant professor at my community college. Since that time the disciplined structure of my Oxford House allowed me to recover from addiction and never look back. I was so grateful that Oxford House was there for me when I didn't have anywhere to go that I started volunteering to support the Oxford House of Virginia. I have served many positions in the organization. The most rewarding of those was serving a Chairman of the Oxford Houses of Virginia State Association. A board comprised of approximately 35 volunteers and a few Outreach workers. We support all Oxford Houses in Virginia with training and opportunities for service. I also help the houses in Richmond with operations and training. It has been a rewarding part of my life to give back and see others find happiness and wellbeing away from addiction. I was able to restore the relationship with my children, excel at work and become a better person. I will be forever grateful for Oxford House and its system of operations. If one follows the rules and procedures of Oxford House lives will change and residents will become self-supporting, law abiding members of society.

Oxford House was a "game changer" for me. And to consider their demise would be a travesty of epic proportions. Please vote against any proposed changes to the Oxford Houses of Virginia.

Sincerely,

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Reynolds Community College
Past Chairman, Oxford Houses of Virginia State Association
Alumni Board Member, Oxford Houses of Virginia
Chapter 3 (Richmond) Alumni Chairman