



Support

HB 303 – State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 6, 2020

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *HB 303 – State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation*. This bill extends the sunset date and reporting requirements for the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists through 2026.

LCPCM appreciates all of the progress made by the Board since the 2017 Sunset Review was conducted. Over the past two years, LCPCM has had the opportunity to work with the Board on numerous initiatives, including updated clinical regulations for licensed clinical professional counselors (LCPCs). After more than 5 years of starts and stops, we are eagerly anticipating these regulations being proposed this spring.

We strongly support the extension of the Board’s sunset date to 2026 and agree with the recommendations included in the evaluation conducted by the Department of Legislative Services during the fall of 2019. We believe that while the Board has made great progress over the past two years, additional work remains. With this, LCPCM continues to be concerned with the possibility of expanding the scope of the Board to include additional provider groups and we were pleased to see this reflected in the following 2019 recommendation from DLS:

“Given the additional actions still required to be completed by the board, DLS reiterates its recommendation at this time and notes that the board should be given at least another year to fully implement the recommendations of the report before the General Assembly considers adding more license and/or certification types.”

Therefore, we are requesting that in addition to passing HB 303, extending the term of the Board, that the legislature refrain from expanding the scope of the Board to include additional provider types.

If we can provide any further information, please contact our legislative representative, Rachael Faulkner, at (410) 693-4000 or rfaulkner@policypartners.net.