



The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The Mdcswc, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 707 – *Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Coverage for Nonparticipation*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (Mdcswc), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of Mdcswc, we **support** Senate Bill 707.

Ensuring that individuals have access to critical mental health and substance use disorder treatment services continues to be an area of concern to the clinical social work community. Recent reports from the Maryland Insurance Administration have confirmed the inadequacy of some carrier's networks. Senate Bill 707 addresses this issue in a manner that will assist in fostering adequate networks and/or adequate payment to these specialists. It also ensures that the insured has coverage for mental health or substance use disorder services at no greater cost to the member than if the services were provided in-network by allowing an insured to go out of network if the carrier's provider panel has an insufficient number or type of participating specialist or nonphysician specialist for the required services. Mdcswc strongly urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work: www.gwscsw.org

Contacts: Coalition Chair: Judy Gallant, LCSW-C; email: jg708@columbia.edu; mobile (301) 717-1004

Legislative Consultants: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer and Christine Krone, Schwartz, Metz & Wise PA, 20 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Email: pmetz@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 746-9003 ; ckrone@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 940-9165