



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 Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Heather Bagnall

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

DATE: February 3, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 173 – *State Board of Social Work Examiners – Temporary License to Practice Social Work*

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** House Bill 173.

House Bill 173 authorizes the State Board of Social Work Examiners to issue a temporary license to an applicant who, except for passing the required examination, has otherwise completed the appropriate education and experience required for a license to practice bachelor social work or master social work. A temporary license authorizes the holder to practice bachelor social work or master social work in the State only under the supervision of a board-approved supervisor while the temporary license is effective.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant delays in testing for licensure exams, posing a barrier to urgently needed mental health services. This bill will provide greater flexibility during a time when we are seeing shortages in the health care workforce. MdCSWC urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
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