



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 Ariana B. Kelly

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

DATE: February 10, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 625 – *Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland – Establishment*

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 625.

House Bill 625 establishes the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland to evaluate the extent of the workforce shortage, short-term solutions to the workforce shortage, future health care workforce needs, and the relationship between the Maryland Department of Health and the health occupations boards. The bill has an annual reporting requirement to the General Assembly and sunsets after two years.

With existing workers experiencing unprecedented levels of burn out and stress coupled with future generations choosing careers in alternative fields, the health care workforce capacity, specifically the mental and behavioral health care workforce, is at risk of diminishing over time. MdCSWC is specifically supportive of and interested in the provisions outlined in Section 3 of the bill which examines short-term solutions to address immediate needs. We believe it is especially important to examine the additional support that the Department of Health can give to the Boards to assist with workloads, overhead, improved staffing, and technology improvement. Our members are frequently frustrated by the Board of Social Work Examiners' inability to respond in a timely way to licensing issues, which we understand is greatly affected by the tremendous workload the inadequate number of staff is attempting to handle.

MdCSWC supports House Bill 625 and believes the Commission's findings will be helpful in framing where we are in the workforce crisis and will help outline a comprehensive road map for areas that the State will need to address going forward. We urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Christine K. Krone
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