

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 0103:

State Board of Social Work Examiners - Temporary License to Practice Social Work

TO: Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

FROM: **Laura Whitney, LCSW-C**

DATE: February 7, 2023

I support HOUSE BILL 103 to address gaps in patient care by providing for temporary licenses.

I am a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW-C) in support of this bill. Long wait times to receive full licensure have led to gaps in care for clients because there are not enough available clinicians to see them. If clinicians who have done all of the steps to receive licensure and are simply waiting on confirmation from the board are able to practice, this would help increase the amount of practicing clinicians, which would in turn help address the mental health care provider shortage.

For these reasons and more, I urge a favorable report on HOUSE BILL 0103.

Laura Maureen Whitney, LCSW-C
3301 Fleet St., Baltimore, MD 21224
D46