



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1289 State Board of Social Work Examiners – Practice Social Work – Definition and Scope of Authority – Letter of Concern

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The State Board of Social Worker Examiners (the “Board”) is writing this Letter of Concern for HB 1289. While we do not have issue with “clarifying” aspects of the “practice of social work” and support the ability to expand the scope of a Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical (LCSW-C), there is concern with the language on page 4, line 18: “(3) **REQUIRE BOARD CERTIFICATION**”, despite the language stating that the Board “may” on page 4, line 13.

The Board issues social worker licenses and does not “certify” social workers for specializations. There are organizations that offer certifications. For example, the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification has options for Master Level trained clinicians:

- <https://crrcertification.com/crc-certification>

A social worker with the LCSW-C license would be able to apply to that organization for a certification. HB 1289’s language is not clear as to the Board’s role.

The Board has concerns that this bill could put us in the business of certifying specialties that should not be under the purview of the Board. For these reasons, the Board urges an unfavorable report on HB 1289.

For more information, please contact me at 410-740-4722 or at karen.richards2@maryland.gov.

Respectfully,

Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Executive Director

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.