



March 21, 2024

Senate Bill 106

State Board of Social Work Examiners- Board Membership and Certified Social Worker Licenses

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) is an association of private child caring organizations providing foster care, group homes, and other services through more than 200 programs across Maryland. The members of MARFY represent providers who serve Maryland's most vulnerable children who are in out of home placements due to abuse, neglect or severe mental health, and medical needs. We operate group homes, treatment foster care programs and independent living programs, primarily serving the foster care population as well as a juvenile services population.

If passed, Senate Bill 106 would address the work of the State Board of Social Work Examiners. This legislation would also address the lack alteration of the membership of the State Board of Social Work examiners repealing obsolete references to certified social worker licenses. Social workers play a critical role in ensuring the safety, well-being, and permanency of children who are at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Social workers support families in crisis and advocate for systemic changes to improve child welfare policies and practices.

MARFY is a nonprofit organization that relies on social workers and their voices to serve the vulnerable needs of our foster youth. Senate Bill 106 would support MARFY's efforts to make important changes in a more efficient and smooth placement process, to accurately accommodate our foster youth. Timely placements help maintain the enthusiasm and motivation for our members and providers. This legislation would be extremely helpful in protecting and serving Maryland's most vulnerable population.

Overall, social workers play a crucial role in promoting social justice, human rights, and well-being across diverse populations and settings. Their dedication,

compassion, and expertise contribute to building stronger, healthier, and more resilient individuals, families, and communities. **It is for these reasons we politely ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 106.**

For more information call or email:

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