



# BALTIMORE CITY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE DIRECTORATE

## OFFICERS

Ashley Archie  
President  
HeL Recovery Center

Sean Augustus  
Vice President  
Recovery Network

Joan Sperlein  
Secretary  
IBR REACH Health  
Services

Toni Maynard-Carter  
Treasurer  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Broadway Center

Joan Sperlein  
Immediate Past President  
IBR REACH Health  
Services

## House Health & Government Operations Committee

March 20, 2025

### SB 174 Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact Support

On behalf of the Baltimore City Substance Abuse Directorate (the Directorate), I write to express our support for SB 174, Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact. The Directorate is a member group of organizations, made up of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs that serve Baltimore City.

The Directorate unequivocally supports SB 174, which will increase the accessibility to services that social workers are able to provide, across state lines. With the passing of this compact, there will be relief from several redundant, burdensome, and stringent requirements that are associated with the social work requirements to work across various states. Additionally, clients within many communities will be able to have more access to social workers, which is a profession that is imperative in meeting behavioral health needs.

The workforce shortage has made it increasingly difficult to recruit and hire the needed clinicians to work in Maryland's behavioral health programs. Social workers are trained and well equipped to address many behavioral health disorders, while empowering clients. If passed, these much-needed skills could reach many more clients who are in need of resources and counseling to meet their behavioral health needs. In addition, Professional Counselors in Maryland already benefit from this compact, and for the aforementioned reasons, social workers should have the benefit of this inclusion.

We as a membership urge the members of the committee to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Ashley Archie, LCSW-C*

Ashley Archie, LCSW-C  
President  
Baltimore City Substance Abuse Directorate

c/o HeL Recovery Center, LLC  
1900 N. Howard St.  
Suite 201  
Baltimore, MD 21128