



Pyramid Healthcare

AN INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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The Hon. Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Hon. Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Pyramid Healthcare Testimony In Favor of Senate Bill 174 – An Act Concerning the “Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact”

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Committee:

The Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. (“Pyramid Healthcare”) family of companies urges the Committee to favorably adopt SB 174 to have Maryland join the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact (“SW Compact”).

Pyramid Healthcare is an integrated behavioral healthcare system serving Medicaid and commercial clients in 8 states across a continuum of residential and outpatient substance use disorder (“SUD”), mental health, autism, and eating disorder treatment services. We employ over 3,600 team members across our 80+ active facilities which treat approximately 14,000 clients on any given day.

In Maryland, we operate five locations serving over 2,000 residents per year: a withdrawal management & residential treatment center and an outpatient treatment center in California, a withdrawal management & residential treatment center in Charlotte Hall, and a withdrawal management & residential treatment center in Joppa. In January 2025, our new Prince George’s County facility began treating clients. That facility will ultimately offer approximately 75 withdrawal management & residential SUD treatment beds for adult residents of Prince George’s County and throughout central Maryland. In total, we have over 200 licensed SUD residential treatment beds for adult Medicaid clients across the state.

Maryland has already recognized the value of interstate licensure compacts, having previously adopted the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, Interstate Professional Counselors Compact, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, Nurse Licensure Compact, Interstate Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact, Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, and the Physical Therapy Compact.¹ The SW Compact has already been adopted by 22 states and legislation is currently pending in 20 other states.² In addition, the SW Compact is supported by the Council of State Governments (“CSG”), the U.S. Department of Defense (“DoD”),

¹ <https://www.cchpca.org/topic/licensure-compacts/>.

² <https://swcompact.org/compact-map/>.

and the Association of Social Work Boards (“ASWB”), as well as numerous other organizations who helped develop the SW Compact.³

The Social Work Licensure Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact that allows social workers with bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees, and clinical licenses to provide services to clients in all other Compact states instead of having to file duplicate license applications in each state in which they practice.⁴ Each Compact state extends licensure reciprocity to the other states in the Compact. In order to be eligible, a social worker must first already be eligible for or hold a social work license in their primary state of residence and meet other criteria. After the social worker’s eligibility is determined, they receive a multistate license and may begin working in any SW Compact member state.

There are over 500,000 licensed social workers across the United States and Pyramid Healthcare employs many social workers across our counseling, operations, clinical, quality, compliance, and utilization review teams, among other functions. The SW Compact will streamline the licensing process while reducing administrative burden and allowing social workers to quickly resume providing care. It does so while protecting patient and public safety.

Joining the SW Compact will facilitate multistate practice and reduce the barriers to license portability for our current and potential employees by easing mobility across state lines, expanding employment opportunities to address crucial workforce shortages, allowing continuity of care for our patients that move across state lines, allows the use of telehealth to be leveraged, and supports the relocation of military spouses and their families.

Given Maryland’s unique geographic location, bordering Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Delaware, and West Virginia—as well as the presence of major military installations where members of the military and their families are frequently relocated into and out of the region, the SW Compact will positively impact the state’s ability to attract and retain qualified and desperately needed social workers.

Please adopt SB 174 to have Maryland join the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact.

Thank you for your support of behavioral health providers – including those in both mental health and substance use – in Maryland and for considering our policy proposals and recommendations on behalf of Pyramid Healthcare. If we can provide any additional information or materials, please contact me at crosier@pyramidhc.com or 667-270-1582. In addition, we invite you or a member of the Committee or staff to reach out and schedule a visit to one of our Maryland locations sometime soon to learn more about our programs and services.

Sincerely,



Collan B. Rosier
Vice President of Government Relations

CC: Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Michelle Firmin, Assistant to the Chair

³ <https://swcompact.org/>.

⁴ <https://swcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2023/02/Social-Work-Licensure-Compact-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.