



# Metro

Marriage and Family Therapists, Inc.

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for Senate Bill 0182F, State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Distinguished Committee Members:

The Metro Marriage and Family Therapists, Inc. (Metro MFT) is a non-profit membership organization serving licensed Marriage and Family Therapists in Maryland, Delaware, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. In the 2017 Session of the Maryland Legislature, our members in concert with many other mental health professionals, encouraged the adoption of legislation that affected the same matters as the one before you today. The 2017 enactments are set to expire unless the Legislature extends them during this session.

The State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists is essential for the protection and well-being of Maryland citizens by regulating the licensure of key mental health professionals and investigating and responding to complaints about the Board's activities and the licensed individuals.

The 2017 and current legislation focuses on the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists by continuing its existence and clarifying its duties. In summary, among duties specified in the current Bill are: to act upon a large backlog of unanswered complaints against the Board, its staff, and some of the citizens licensed by the Board; conduct a full evaluation of Board's current operations; study and propose actions that will improve the Board's operations; study and propose changes in licensing requirements to bring them in line with current practice and the requirements of other states; and, report upon the results of these actions to the Legislature. We believe that the Board has made substantial progress on said actions, but needs additional time to complete them.

We believe that the Board is now heading in the right direction and is becoming appropriately transparent and efficient. For example, the necessary staff changes and



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training have been accomplished and the regulations for each group of licensed professionals under the Board are being reviewed and updated with input from the appropriate membership organizations. Additionally, the complaint backlog is being reduced and complaints are being addressed. Therefore, we encourage the Committee to favorably support Senate Bill 0182F without further amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Taylor McMahon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Taylor McMahon, LGMFT  
Advocacy Officer, Metro MFT