



The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MdCSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 6, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 527 – *Health Occupations – Social Workers – Scope of Practice, Supervision, and Application Decision Appeal Process*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdCSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MdCSWC, we support House Bill 527 with the noted amendments.

It is MdCSWC's understanding that this legislation is intended to clarify various provisions of the statute relative to the scope of practice of social workers. MdCSWC has no objections to the requested changes and believe they provide the clarification requested. However, in reviewing the relevant statute, MdCSWC determined there were additional clarifications to current law that should also be included in this legislation if the objective of a clear and unambiguous framework for the practice of social work is to be obtained.

To that end, MdCSWC requests the following amendments to House Bill 527:

1. On page 3, in lines 8 and 17 after "conditions" add UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER – CLINICAL.

This amendment makes those provisions consistent with the other provisions in those sections. In the regulations of the profession, "treat biopsychological conditions" is only reflected under the scope of practice of a licensed clinical social worker-clinical.

2. On page 5, in line 18, after "YEARS", add AT THEIR CURRENT LEVEL OF LICENSURE.

This amendment clarifies that a licensed master of social work cannot use their time as a licensed bachelor of social work towards their 5 years.

With the noted amendments, MdCSWC requests a favorable report.

For more information call:

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