



## 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 Luke Clippinger, Chair  
Members, House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Susan K. McComas

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

DATE: February 20, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 820 – *Child Abuse and Neglect – Training of Health Care Professionals*

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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 820.

House Bill 820 provides a framework for encouraging health care professionals to receive training on the obligation to report abuse and neglect and the identification of abused and neglected children. The Department of Health is required to provide the Health Occupation Boards a list of recommended courses on the obligation to report abuse and neglect and the identification of abused and neglected children. The Boards must post the list of courses prominently on the board's website; provide information about the courses to specified health care professionals at the time of license renewal; and advertise the availability of the recommended courses in the newsletters and any other media published by the board.

For many years this General Assembly has debated the most effective mechanisms for ensuring compliance with reporting requirements for abuse and neglect. Training and education is a far superior approach to increase compliance with reporting requirements than the criminal penalty and other approaches under consideration. MdcSWC believes House Bill 820 provides an excellent mechanism for outreach and education and will serve to enhance the ability of providers to identify abuse and neglect and to comply with the reporting requirements. A favorable report is recommended.

**For more information call:**

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