



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 571 – Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact

Hearing Date: February 16, 2021

Position: Support

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 571 – Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact*. The bill proposes that Maryland join an interstate licensure compact for psychologists.

As a network of federally qualified health centers, we are acutely aware of workforce shortages in the behavioral health field. We support interstate licensure compacts as a means of increasing the number of providers who can provide both in-person and telehealth behavioral health care. Compacts are particularly important to our health centers that border other jurisdictions. If those health centers could more easily hire professional counselors licensed in bordering states, they could increase their capacity to serve their patients.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

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