

February 16, 2021

Support for SB 466

Senate Finance Committee

Certificates for Involuntary admission – Licensed Certified Social Worker- Clinical

Support

Maryland's Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW–MD), which represents professional social workers across the state, supports Senate Bill 466. This bill alters a requirement that a certain certificate accompany an application for involuntary admission to certain facilities by providing that the certificate may be of a physician and a licensed certified social worker- clinical.

Social workers provide more mental health services than any other profession in the United States. We are well aware that decisions which take away a person's freedom and override that person's right to make decisions for him or herself is an enormous responsibility. We also recognize that for the safety of the person and others, this decision must sometimes be made. LCSW-C social workers can already make these sorts of decision in the cases of Emergency Petitions and Guardianship cases.

Decisions about involuntary commitments must be made by two physicians or a physician and one other appropriate health care professional. Licensed clinical social workers (LCSW-Cs) should join licensed psychologists and psychiatric nurse practitioners as one of those who by law may make this decision along with a physician.

We respectfully request a favorable report from the committee.

Please vote YES on SB 466

Daphne L. McClellan, PhD, MSW
Executive Director
NASW-MD Chapter