



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 5
Title: Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities
Hearing Date: March 23, 2021
Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 5 – Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities*. This bill would require health care practitioners, including licensed clinical professional counselors, to complete implicit bias training and requires an annual budget allocation to the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

LCPCM supports efforts to properly train Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors in implicit bias. Currently, existing continuing education training requirements for professional counselors be approved by the State occupational boards for health care practitioners. This is a process that LCPCM has long supported and utilizes when providing trainings to professional counselors across Maryland. As such, we are pleased to see the inclusion of our existing approval process in the bill, with the collaboration of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.