



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-764-4732

**2021 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: HB 915
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill establishes a workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented mental health professional that will study and make recommendations regarding certain mental health professionals and certain students who are Black, Latino, or otherwise underrepresented in the mental health profession.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) supports HB 915 Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals. The Board believes that the Workgroup should not be limited to Mental Health professionals. Black, Latino and other groups are underrepresented in the Substance Abuse profession as well. Addictions counselors and therapists should be included in the Workgroup and the scope of the Workgroup should be expanded to Behavioral Health. This change would be consistent with the Maryland Department of Health. The Board also suggests that the Workgroup include a community college representative. Therefore the Board supports HB 915 with the following amendments:

Page 1:

Line 2, strike “mental”. Add new language “behavioral”
Line 17, subsection (a) strike “mental”. Add new language “behavioral”

Page 2:

Line 1, subsection (b)(5), add new language “the President of a Community College offering an addiction counseling program, or the President’s designee;”
Line 4, subsection (b)(5)(ii) strike “mental”. Add new language “behavioral” and after “profession” add new language “including an addictions counselor,” before “in the State”
Line 15, subsection (f)(1) strike “mental”. Add new language “behavioral”
Line 16, subsection (f)(1) strike “mental”. Add new language “behavioral”
Line 21, subsection (f)(2)(i) strike “mental”. Add new language “behavioral”

Line 22, subsection (f)(2)(i) strike “mental”. Add new language “behavioral”

Line 23, subsection (f)(2)(ii) strike “mental”. Add new language “behavioral”

Line 24, subsection (f)(2)(ii) strike “mental” and “mental”. Add new language “behavioral” and “behavioral”

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists respectfully requests a favorable report with amendment of HB 915. If you have questions about this matter you may contact Danielle Vallone, Acting Executive Director, at 410-764-4734 or Danielle.Vallone@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.