



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 689
Title: Certificates for Involuntary Admission – Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical
Hearing Date: February 16, 2021
Position: Support with Amendment

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports with amendment *House Bill 689 – Certificates for Involuntary Admission – Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical*. This bill would permit licensed clinical social workers – clinical (LCSW-C) to provide the second certification for an involuntary admission.

LCPCM supports our LCSW-C counterparts with the authority to serve as the second certifying provider for petitions for involuntary admission. We are also respectfully requesting that the bill be amended to include licensed clinical professional counselors (LCPCs).

There are over 4,000 licensed clinical professional counselors (LCPCs) in the state. Within our scope of practice, LCPCs diagnose and treat mental health conditions, serving children and adults in all practice settings. As a significant sector of the behavioral health workforce, we can provide a vital function in expediting the process of providing the second certification, including conducting the necessary examination and diagnosis required under § 10–616 of the Health-General Article.

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