



Testimony before the House Health and Government Operations Committee

Senate Bill 466: Mental Health – Assent to and Certificates for Admission – Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

March 23, 2021

****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 as amended. This bill alters the requirements for certificates accompany an application for involuntary admission of an adult or assent of a minor 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 for the assent of a minor or the involuntary commitment of an adult 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

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