



## The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MdCSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair  
Members, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Geraldine Valentino-Smith

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: March 15, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1029 – *Maryland Higher Education Commission – Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee – Establishment*

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The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdCSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MdCSWC, we **support** House Bill 1029.

House Bill 1029 would establish the Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee within the Maryland Higher Education Commission. MdCSWC supports the establishment of this Advisory Committee and believes an evaluation of policies and procedures regarding mental health access at the higher education level is important. Currently, counseling services are provided at most institutions of higher learning, however the number of clinicians available are woefully inadequate. The bill's provisions touch on network adequacy under their charge of identifying concerns in rural and workforce shortage areas where they are to study the use of telemedicine and video conferencing in the provision of mental health services. MdCSWC would like to emphasize the Advisory Committee should evaluate network adequacy more broadly. With that noted, we urge a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

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