



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 Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins

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

DATE: February 10, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 670 – *Maryland Health Care Commission – Study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth*

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 with amendment** House Bill 670.

There has been tremendous interest in the potential to expand access to services, particularly behavioral health services, by authorizing out-of-state providers to provide telehealth. However, there are numerous legal issues related to the provision of services by out-of-state providers, such as professional Board oversight, licensure, quality of care, insurance carrier credentialing, etc., that could have unintended consequences if not carefully studied. House Bill 670 proposes that the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission, the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Insurance Administration, Professional Occupation Boards, malpractice providers, and other relevant stakeholders, study if there are ways that interstate telehealth can be safely and appropriately expanded to allow State residents to use telehealth to receive health services from out-of-state practitioners.

MdCSWC supports the approach to addressing this issue framed in this legislation, however, we would suggest an amendment that removes the language in Section 1(a)(3) which states, “to alter licensure requirements and the impact an expansion would have on Maryland-based health practitioners”. MdCSWC strongly believes that the study should focus on interstate licensure compacts, interstate reciprocity, and licensure by endorsement to expand interstate telehealth. We would encourage the bill be amended to recognize these approaches as opposed to altering licensure requirements, which could raise unnecessary debate about scope of practice and current licensure requirements. With our noted amendments, we would request a favorable report.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Christine K. Krone
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work: www.gwscsw.org

Contacts: Coalition Chair: Judy Gallant, LCSW-C; email: jg708@columbia.edu; mobile (301) 717-1004

Legislative Consultants: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer and Christine Krone, Schwartz, Metz & Wise PA, 20 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Email: pmetz@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 746-9003 ; ckrone@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 940-9165