



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 Stephanie Smith

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

DATE: March 3, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1318 – *Health Occupations – Mental Health Services – Cultural Competency and Diversity*

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 1318.

House Bill 1318 would require the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, and the State Board of Social Work Examiners to each have at least three members who are from underrepresented communities. It would require certain professional counselors and therapists, psychologists, psychology assistants, and social workers to complete at least six continuing education unit hours in cultural competency. And lastly, the bill establishes the Culturally Informed and Culturally Responsive Mental Health Task Force and also an Alternative Mental Health Professional Licensing Pathways Workgroup.

MdcSWC supports the intent of the legislation and agrees with a majority of the provisions of the legislation. However, the Board of Social Work Examiners is currently considering the adoption of regulations that establish a CEU requirement for diversity training. Imbedding specified CEU requirements in statute limits a Board's flexibility to frame its CEU requirements in a manner that reflects the variety of issues and professional practice specializations that will achieve the objectives associated with required CEUs. Therefore, we respectfully request that provision be amended out of the bill. With the amendment noted, MdcSWC supports House Bill 1318.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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