

MD Addiction Directors Council - 2023 FAV SB 14 -

Uploaded by: Ann Ciekot

Position: FAV



Maryland Addiction Directors Council

Senate Bill 14 – Health Occupations –

Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors - Licensure

Senate Finance Committee

January 31, 2023

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Maryland Addiction Directors Council (MADC) represents SUD and Dual Recovery outpatient and residential providers in Maryland. MADC members provide over 1,200 residential beds across the State and advocate for quality SUD and Dual Recovery outpatient and residential treatment.

MADC providers are experiencing a workforce shortage at never-before-seen levels for licensed staff and for SUD counselors. Open positions for licensed staff often are open for months with few interested candidates for many different posted positions in the area. The need for more licensed staff is key to service delivery for behavioral healthcare.

SB14 will sensibly adjust requirements for Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselors (LCADC) and Licensed Graduate Drug and Alcohol Counselors (LGADC) without adversely affecting quality standards for licensing. MADC supports these changes. The bill removes the requirement for educational institutions at which candidates complete their educational requirements to be regional and removes specific credit hour requirements from licensure certification. The clinical level counselor requirements remain the same.

This bill will help ease the very real workforce crisis in behavioral healthcare by adjusting outdated requirements without affecting quality licensure standards. **For these reasons, Maryland Addiction Directors Council urges this committee to pass SB14.**

SB 14- Health Occupations - Clinical and Graduate

Uploaded by: Erin Dorrien

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

January 31, 2023

To: The Honorable Melony G. Griffith, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 14- Health Occupations - Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors - Licensure

Dear Chair Griffith:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 14.

SB 14 aligns the credentialing process for licensed clinical and alcohol drug counselors and licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselors with other professions that the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists regulates.¹ Streamlining the licensure and credentialing process can reduce administrative barriers and support the health care workforce.

There is a growing need for behavioral health services in the community. Between 2013 and 2021, emergency department visits for behavioral health conditions climbed from 10.5% to 18.3%. Patient acuity also increased—meaning, there were more patients turning to emergency departments in crisis, and they were sicker when they got there.²

Hospital emergency departments are often the first point of contact or the facility of last resort for individuals suffering from a behavioral health crisis. Patients and families turn to an emergency department for care when they cannot find treatment in the community or when the condition worsens.

Maryland is facing a critical staffing shortage across health care occupations. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future. Removing barriers to licensure is critical to expand Maryland's workforce pipeline. Legislation like SB 14 is a model for how health occupations boards can reduce barriers and support the health care workforce.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on SB 14.

For more information, please contact:
Erin Dorrien, Vice President, Policy
Edorrien@mhaonline.org

¹ Senate Bill 14 [Fiscal and Policy Note](#)

² HSCRC Case Mix Data

MATOD - 2023 SB 14 FAV - Alcohol & Drug Counselors

Uploaded by: Joshua Grollmes

Position: FAV



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JGrollmes@serenityllc.net

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KStolle@jhmi.edu

Immediate Past President

Vickie Walters, LCSW-C
IBR/REACH Health Services
VWalters@ibrinc.org

Finance Committee January 31, 2023

Support of Senate Bill 14 Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors – Licensure

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) urges a favorable opinion on SB 14. Our mission is to promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction, so individuals, families, and communities can lead healthy lives in recovery and without stigma.

MATOD is pleased to support SB 14. The language “regional” should be removed altogether. An accredited school is just that, accredited. Personally, I am from Kansas and attended a division 1 accredited college in the Midwest. When moving to Maryland in 2007 to work and obtain a Master’s degree it was very easy to get into a graduate program. However, when applying for a Drug and Alcohol Trainee Certificate through the BPCT it was more difficult to obtain a certificate even though the course descriptions were the same as the regional descriptions here. Given the workforce shortages in the health care field overall, this will hopefully offer some relief in the Drug and Alcohol related field. Thank you so much for your time and consideration in support of SB 14.

Joshua Grollmes, M.Ed.
MATOD Board President



c/o IBR/REACH Health Services
2104 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21218



(410) 752-6080



www.matod.org

MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.

Nash MMC Testimony in Support of SB0014_Jan 30 23.

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Statement of Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

SB 014 – Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors – Licensure
January 31, 2023

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

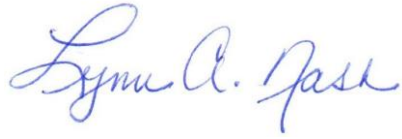
As the Communications Director, for the Maryland Military Coalition, I am testifying in support of SB 014. For the record, my name is Lynn Nash and I am a PhD-prepared nurse, who has had significant experience in healthcare credentialing—the process of reviewing and evaluating education and training.

SB 014 alters the Maryland qualifications to become licensed to practice as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor by modifying the educational pathway. The bill specifies that the qualifying degrees must be in a professional counselling field from an accredited educational institution that is approved by the State Board of Professional Counselors; and repeals a second pathway of a graduating from a regionally accredited deemed equivalent. Currently, any applicant who holds a master's or doctoral degree in health and human services counseling from a regionally accredited educational institution qualifies. The purpose of this change is not only for a duty to protect Marylanders from harm, but also to make the credentialing process more consistent with requirements for similar professions that the Board regulates.

While this is a simple, procedural change, it does stand to reason that this change offers protection in that the qualifications cannot be manipulated at the whim of the Board. Therefore, the Maryland Military Coalition, a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 19 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. We **support** Senate Bill 014 and asks for your **favorable report**.

The Coalition would like to offer our thanks to Senator Augustine for sponsoring this legislation.


Respectfully,


A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a distinct "A" and "Nash" at the end.

Lynn A. Nash

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society


American Minority Veterans Research Project



Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

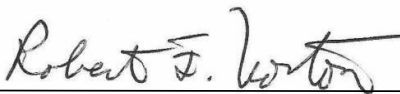

Disabled American Veterans



Distinguished Flying Cross Association


Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association


Military Officers Association of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart


Montford Point Marines of America


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars

Nash MMC Written Support of SB0014_Jan 30 23.pdf

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 30, 2023

Chairwoman Melanie Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUBJECT: Request for Favorable Report – SB0014, Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors – Licensure

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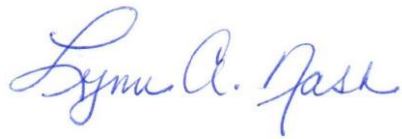
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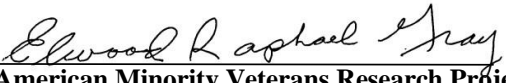
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Lynn A. Nash

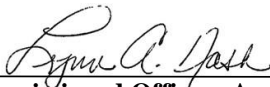
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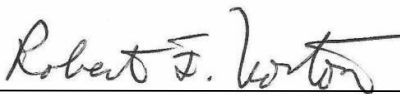

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Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars

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Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, MD., M.P.H., Acting Secretary
Nicki Drotleff, Board Chair – Laura Berg, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215, 410-764-4732*

2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 14
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors
–Licensure

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill (SB) 14 will alter the educational requirements for individuals seeking to be licensed as clinical or graduate alcohol and drug counselors.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the Board) supports this Bill which will make the requirements for the Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) credential more consistent with requirements of the other professions regulated by the Board. It will remove specific course and experiential learning requirements from statute and add them to the Board's regulations. Further, the profession has matured since its inception and the necessity of detailed educational statutory requirements is obsolete and more appropriately addressed in regulation.

The proposed changes will standardize the requirements for professions regulated by the Board that hold the same scope of practice. It will also help alleviate confusion in the counseling field and for applicants as to the requirements for licensure as an LCADC. At present, the requirements are less than those for the other clinical counseling professions regulated by the Board despite the fact that LCADCs hold the same scope of practice.

For these reasons, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists strongly urges a favorable report on SB 14.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Laura Berg, Executive Director, at 410-764-4734 or at laura.berg@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

MPA Testimony 2023 - Letter of Concern - Senate Bi

Uploaded by: Pat Savage

Position: INFO



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: [410-992-7732](tel:410-992-7732). www.marylandpsychology.org

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RE: SB 0014 Health Occupations - Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors - Licensure

Treasurer

Melinda Capaldi, PsyD

Position: **Letter of Concern**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

Representatives-at-large

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD
Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, offers to the House Health, and Government Operations Committee a **LETTER OF CONCERN on Senate Bill 14**.

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, PsyD

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

SB 0014 as currently written, may inadvertently narrow the field of qualified applicants for Clinical and Graduate Alcohol Counselors. We are concerned that this bill may exclude adequately trained students with master's degrees from other human service fields beyond professional counseling. While we await word from their Board, we want to express our desire to obtain clarification about any potential consequences that may narrow the field of applicants coming from different academic fields. We are sure you are aware of the shortage of providers for mental health and substance abuse that exists today. If this bill excludes adequately trained students with master's degrees from other human service fields, the effect of this bill may be a step in the wrong direction as we work together to improve access to mental health and substance abuse care in Maryland.

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Thank you for considering our comments and proposed amendments on S 0014. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate – Finance Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Ethics

Colleen Byrne, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Respectfully submitted,

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

Professional Practice

Karin Cleary, PhD

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

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Paul C. Berman, PhD

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

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