

MdCSWC

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MdCSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Adrian Boafó

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

DATE: March 22, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 694 – *Labor and Employment – Workers’ Compensation – Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdCSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MdCSWC, we **support** House Bill 694.

House Bill 694 would authorize a licensed certified social worker-clinical (LCSW-C) to register as a rehabilitation practitioner to provide evaluation services for workers’ compensation claims related to permanent impairments involving a behavioral or mental disorder. Currently, rehabilitation practitioners include: (1) a nurse certified by the State Board of Nursing as a nurse case manager; (2) a rehabilitation counselor; and (3) a vocational evaluator (*see §9–6A–01(d)(2) of the Labor and Employment article*). House Bill 694 would add a “licensed certified social worker-clinical as certified by the state board of social work examiners” to the list of eligible providers.

Currently, LCSW-Cs can complete a training through the Workers’ Compensation Commission to register as a vocational rehabilitation service practitioner as set forth by COMAR 14.09.05.02E. Once they complete this training, they are allowed to provide evaluation services in workers’ compensation claims involving a behavioral or mental disorder. However, the current statute severely limits the services LCSW-Cs can provide. They can provide care, take the person off work to qualify for Temporary Total Disability while in treatment, etc., but they cannot testify on the extent of the effect of the impairment of the person based on their recommendations, and the records of other providers. However, a psychologist can review the LCSW-C’s records, interview the person briefly, and testify as to the extent of the impairment.

LCSW-Cs meet or exceed all the qualification and experience requirements to be able to register as a rehabilitation practitioner in workers’ compensation claims. For the reasons stated above, MdCSWC supports House Bill 694.

For more information call:

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