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Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairwoman Melony Griffith
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Building, 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

HB694 allows for a licensed clinical social worker to become a licensed rehabilitation practitioner under the Workers' Compensation Commission. This will allow more licensed professionals to provide evaluation and rehabilitation services for workers covered under worker's compensation insurance claims for mental and behavioral disorders. Licensed clinical social workers already have the skills and knowledge to provide these services which would allow claimants to fully focus on their recovery in order to return back to work.

Additionally, due to a workforce shortage of medical professionals, especially in rural areas, allowing clinical social workers to become licensed rehabilitation practitioners will expand eligible professionals who can provide the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illness, emotional, and other behavioral disturbances that would otherwise only be done by a physician or psychologist.

HB694 passed unanimously in the House and has the support of the Maryland Association of Justice, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners, and the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

I strongly urge a favorable report on HB694.

Thank you,

Delegate Adrian Boafo