



March 10, 2023

**Senate Bill 871
Social Workers - Licensure Examinations - Moratorium and Workgroup**

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) is an association of private child caring organizations providing foster care, group homes, and other services through more than 200 programs across Maryland. The members of MARFY represent providers who serve Maryland's most vulnerable children who are in out of home placements due to abuse, neglect or severe mental health, and medical needs. We operate group homes, treatment foster care programs and independent living programs, primarily serving the foster care population as well as a juvenile services population.

SB871 is a bill that aims to alter the licensure examination requirements for social workers in Maryland. The bill proposes to establish a workgroup that will identify alternative methods for assessing the qualifications of candidates seeking a master social worker license, a certified social worker license, or a certified social worker-clinical license. The workgroup will develop recommendations for a certain assessment method to replace a certain examination requirement. MARFY believes this bill is a critical step towards improving the social work profession in Maryland and ensuring that the state's residents receive high-quality social work services.

The proposed workgroup, which will include representatives from various groups, is a thoughtful approach to addressing the current and future demand for social workers in Maryland. By considering factors such as the availability of qualified candidates and the costs and benefits of different assessment methods, the workgroup can develop recommendations that will ultimately increase the number of qualified social workers in the state. The bill does not propose any changes to the existing licensure requirements for social workers in Maryland, but rather aims to explore alternative assessment methods that may be more effective in evaluating the qualifications of social work candidates. This approach shows a commitment to improving the licensure process without compromising the quality of social work services provided to Maryland residents.

By exploring alternative assessment methods for social work licensure, we know this bill has the potential to make a significant positive impact on the social work profession in Maryland. It is for these aforementioned reasons, that we politely ask for a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 871. Thank you.

For more information call or email:

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