



Board of Social Work Examiners

Wes Moore, Governor · Arana Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

*Sandra G. Petty, Chair · Daphne McClellan, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 318 Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4788*

February 28, 2023

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
Room 101 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill 694 – Labor and Employment – Workers’ Compensation – Licensed Certified Social Worker–Clinical – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board) is submitting this letter of support for HB 694 - Labor and Employment – Workers’ Compensation – Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical. This bill will 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. LCSW-Cs would join the currently recognized nurse case managers, rehabilitation counselors and vocational evaluators in providing this service to the public.

LCSW-Cs are licensed as such because their education, experience and knowledge tested on a national exam demonstrate that they are capable of making these professional judgments. In addition, any social worker who is neither trained nor experienced in this area is ethically bound to refrain from practicing or testifying in this area.

The scope for an LCSW-C outlined in Health Occupation Article § 19-101 (n) states “(5) For an individual licensed as a certified social worker–clinical, “practice social work” also includes: (i) Supervision of other social workers; (ii) Evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of biopsychosocial conditions, mental and emotional conditions and impairments, and behavioral health disorders, including substance use disorders, addictive disorders, and mental disorders, as defined in § 7.5–101 of the Health – General Article; (iii) Petitioning for emergency evaluation under Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the Health General Article; and (iv) The provision of psychotherapy.”

For these reasons, the Board supports HB 649 and are pleased to support those social workers who can fulfill this important role for the public.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please contact me at Daphne.McClellan@maryland.gov or 410-764-4722.

Sincerely,

Daphne L. McClellan

Daphne McClellan, PhD, MSW
Executive Director
Board of Social Work Examiners

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