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Written Testimony of Support to Senate Bill 871 as amended

Maryland House Health and Government Operations Committee  
March 28, 2023

Submitted by: Stacey Hardy-Chandler, PhD, JD, LCSW

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Stacey Hardy-Chandler, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). ASWB develops and administers the social work licensure examination and also provides support and services to regulatory entities in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories. ASWB is the only nonprofit organization dedicated to social work regulation. Core to our mission are accountability and public protection through the promotion of safe, competent, and ethical social work practices.

I am submitting testimony in support to Senate Bill 871 as amended. Thank you to the dedicated Committee members who made the amendments.

As it pertains to the proposed workgroup, ASWB is happy to be a named member and will do its best to participate in a meaningful manner. On behalf of all of our members, including Maryland, ASWB is already engaged in the work for which this group is being established. **This is part of the support and services ASWB provides to our state-level member boards to lessen the financial and administrative burdens on them.** With guidance and direction, a workgroup could have a valuable impact on the evolution of competency assessment which is why ASWB provides multiple opportunities for stakeholders to convene around regulation nationally. We support having ASWB representation on the proposed Maryland-based workgroup or serving as a regulatory resource for those appointed to serve on it.

ASWB welcomes the opportunity to work in collaboration with stakeholders to address and resolve concerns for the best possible outcome – for the profession and for the residents of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Social Work Boards

*ASWB is a nonprofit association whose members comprise the 64 social work licensing authorities from the United States and Canada. ASWB is recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as an entity that provides programs and services to social work regulatory boards in promoting uniformity and lessening burdens on state governments.*