



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 Luke Clippinger, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Susan M. McComas

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

DATE: March 8, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1070 – *Courts – Expert Witnesses – Licensed Certified Social Workers-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 1070.

House Bill 1070 adds a licensed certified social worker-clinical (LCSW-C), who is licensed under the Maryland Social Workers Practice Act and qualified as an expert witness, to testify on ultimate issues, including insanity, competency to stand trial, and matters within the scope of the social worker's special knowledge, in any court or administrative hearing. As the highest level of social work licensing, LCSW-Cs possess the minimum qualifications, education, training, and expertise needed to be able to testify as an expert witness. In their practice as healthcare providers, LCSW-Cs complete independent assessments; form a diagnosis; treat mental disorders and other conditions; treat behavioral health disorders; and provide psychotherapy. Additionally, expanding the statute to include LCSW-Cs will increase the availability of expert witnesses to the courts. As it stands, there simply are not enough psychiatrists or psychologists to meet the needs nor are many trained as required. The required training is available to LCSW-Cs as well as psychiatrists and psychologists. For these reasons, MdCSWC supports House Bill 1070.

For more information call:

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