



# Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

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## 2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO: HB 1070**  
**COMMITTEE: Judiciary**  
**POSITION: SWA**

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**TITLE:** Courts – Expert Witnesses – Licensed Social Workers – Clinical

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The purpose of HB 1070 is to alter the law authorizing a licensed psychologist to testify as an expert witness on particular issues in a court or administrative hearing to include a licensed social worker-clinical.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the Board) respectfully supports HB 1070 with an amendment. While it is logical to add Licensed Certified Social Workers-Clinical, the Board believes that all licensed mental health clinicians should be allowed to provide expert testimony when appropriate. This would include Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors, Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors, and Licensed Clinical Art Therapists. All licensed mental providers bring different areas of expertise to the field. Some areas of expertise include marriage, family, addiction, abuse, and trauma. HB 1070 should be amended to include expert testimony from all licensed mental health clinicians. This creates parity for clinicians and allows a more diverse pool of information to be available as a resource.

For these reasons, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists urges a favorable report with amendment on HB 1070.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Laura Berg, Executive Director, at 410-764-4734 or at [laura.berg@maryland.gov](mailto:laura.berg@maryland.gov).

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