



# Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work

TO: The Honorable CT Wilson, Chair  
Members, House Economic Matters Committee  
The Honorable Susan K. McComas

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Director, GWSCSW Legislation and Advocacy

DATE: February 28, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1285 – *Workers' Compensation – Rehabilitation Practitioners – Licensed Social Workers*

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The Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work (GWSCSW) was established in 1975 to promote and advance the specialization of clinical practice within the social work profession. Through our lobbying, education, community building, and social justice activities, we affirm our commitment to the needs of those in our profession, their clients, and the community at large. On behalf of GWSCSW, we **support** House Bill 1285.

House Bill 1285 expands the pool of professionals who can provide vocational rehabilitation services under Maryland's Workers' Compensation program, particularly for cases involving behavioral or mental disorders. The bill broadens the definition of a rehabilitation practitioner to include licensed social workers who have been certified by the State Board of Social Work Examiners as having sufficient training and experience to provide vocational rehabilitation services. Currently, rehabilitation practitioners are limited to (1) a nurse certified by the State Board of Nursing as a nurse case manager; (2) a rehabilitation counselor; and (3) a vocational evaluator. As the highest level of licensure for social workers in Maryland, LCSW-Cs (Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical) meet or exceed all the qualifications and experience requirements to be able to register as rehabilitation practitioners in workers' compensation claims. For these reasons GWSCSW supports House Bill 1285. We urge a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

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