



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 204 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Hearing Date: February 13, 2024

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 204 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact*. The bill establishes a licensure compact for social workers. Similar to other licensure compacts, social workers would be authorized to practice in all Compact member states under a multistate licensure.

We are facing a crisis with the shortage of behavioral health professions in Maryland, as 21 of 24 jurisdictions have a mental health professional shortage area.¹ Licensure compacts and other reciprocity arrangements will increase access for Marylanders by allowing health professionals, including social workers, from other states to provide in-person or telehealth services.

We ask for a favorable report on the legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

¹ <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>