

**Finance Committee  
February 13, 2024**

**Senate Bill 204  
Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact  
\*\*\*SUPPORT\*\*\***

To the honorable Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Maryland Chapter to express our strong support for Senate Bill 204, the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact, sponsored by Senator Benson. As an organization dedicated to advancing the profession of social work and advocating for the well-being of individuals and communities, we believe that this compact will greatly benefit both social workers and the populations they serve.

The Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact will allow licensed social workers who opt into the compact to practice across state lines without unnecessary barriers or delays. This means clients who travel or relocate will be able to receive uninterrupted services; military spouses who are social workers won't experience delays after moving states; underserved areas will have access to specialized social work services; and geographic barriers will be eliminated among the states that enter the Compact. This is particularly important in today's interconnected world, where individuals and families may move frequently for employment, education, safety concerns, or other reasons.

By streamlining the licensure process and promoting reciprocity among states, SB 204 will enhance access to competent and qualified social work services for individuals and communities across participating states. This will be especially beneficial in addressing critical social issues such as mental health, substance use disorders, child welfare, and aging, which often require interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches and in which social workers have specialized education, training, and expertise.

In conclusion, the NASW Maryland Chapter strongly urges your support for the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact. This legislation represents a significant opportunity to promote the mobility of social workers and improve access to social work services for vulnerable and underserved populations. **We ask that you give a favorable report to SB 204.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Karessa Proctor, BSW, MSW  
Executive Director, NASW-MD