

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 0204
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My name is Lauren Highsmith and I am a Clinical Social Worker in Maryland. I currently work as a provider in the Morgan State University Counseling Center.

THIS BILL

SENATE BILL 204 Entering into the Social Work Licensure Compact for the purpose of authorizing regulated social workers who hold interstate compact licenses to practice social work in member states; establishing requirements for multistate licensure; establishing the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission; and providing for withdrawal from the Compact.

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Maryland, I believe the compact would eliminate barriers to practice and increase access to care. Especially in areas that are underserved, geographically isolated or lack specialty care. As a LCSW-C that works with the college population, I am unable to provide services to students when they are not located on campus or in the state of Maryland. Despite the student may needing continuing care and having limited resources. By increasing the efficiency of becoming licensed across state/territory lines we are Improving the continuity of care when clients travel or relocate.

Lauren Highsmith urges the Finance Committee to report favorably on House Bill.