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Prince George's County

MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee

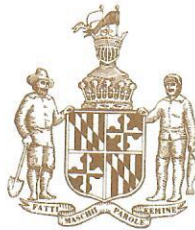
Joint Committees

Audit and Evaluation Committee

Children, Youth, and Families

Ending Homelessness

Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Joanne Benson

SB204: The Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Pamela Beidle, Vice Chairwoman, Katherine Klausmeire and Members of Finance Committee.

I am here this afternoon seeking your support for SB204 – The Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact which will allow, authorized, regulated social workers who hold multistate licenses to practice social work in Maryland. This bill streamlines the social work licensure process where needed when moving from state-to-state. It further anticipates and provides for a modern world for telehealth services by allowing social workers to practice across state lines which can increase the availability of care and support in underserved areas leading to a better quality of life for those in need.

Currently, social workers must seek a separate license in each state in which they wish to practice which can be labor and time intensive.

A compact creates a more efficient processing system while protecting public safety. A big advantage is states participating in the compact use a shared data system which will enable them to verify that social workers have met the requirements to practice under the compact and are in good standing with our regulatory board.

SB0204 offers Maryland the opportunity to be one of the seven states for this compact and to take needed action for the robust provision of mental health services.

I am convinced that the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact – SB204 will lead our state to a brighter tomorrow with the support of bright professionals who are skilled and competent who will be coming to Maryland.

Thank you and I ask for your unwavering support for SB204.