

TO: The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair

Members, Senate Finance Committee The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier

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

DATE: March 5, 2024

RE: SUPPORT – Senate Bill 931 – Workers' Compensation – Rehabilitation Practitioners –

Licensed Social Workers

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** Senate Bill 931.

Senate Bill 931 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 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 Senate Bill 931. We urge a favorable vote.

## For more information call:

Christine K. Krone Pamela Metz Kasemeyer Danna L. Kauffman 410-244-7000