



*MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.*

SB 204 Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact  
Senate Finance Committee. Feb 13, 2024

## **SUPPORT**

MDDCSAM supports HB 34, which would allow for a Social Work Licensure Compact across states. This bill would certainly reduce the burdensome requirements for social workers to hold multiple state licenses when providing care across state lines.

Maryland, like many other states, is facing significant and prolonged work force issues. In particular, it has become increasingly difficult to recruit social workers to provide care in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs. These clinicians are the front-line workers taking care of patients and coordinating their care. They are essential and empower patients with therapy, treatment plans, resources, advocacy.

The work force issue has also been compounded due to the COVID pandemic. More social workers have been drawn to private or group practices, making recruitment to work in SUD treatment facilities even more difficult. This bill would enable practitioners from bordering states to more easily work in Maryland.

In addition, virtual services have grown significantly. If passed, this bill would allow those services to be provided across state lines and reach many more people in needed, especially in rural areas where treatment is scarce.

For the reasons above, in addition to allowing social workers the same benefits of professional counselors and therapists in Maryland, we fully support this bill.