



Maryland Addiction Directors Council

Senate Finance Committee

February 13, 2024

Senate Bill 204 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Support

The Maryland Addictions Directors Council (MADC) represents both outpatient and residential substance use disorder and dual recovery treatment providers across the state of Maryland. Our members provide over 1,200 residential treatment beds across the state and are committed to providing comprehensive, quality recovery services to all Marylanders served.

MADC organizations utilize multi-disciplinary staff, inclusive of licensed social workers, both licensed and certified alcohol and drug counselors, therapists, nurses and advance practice registered nurses to provide comprehensive care. Across these disciplines, there is a dire shortage of candidates throughout the state for all levels of direct patient care. MADC **supports** a compact for social workers to allow for more eligible, and appropriately licensed social workers to work in the state of Maryland, specifically in behavioral health. This will increase access to care, affording more Marylanders to be served for their behavioral health needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony and we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 204.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Blalock'.

Kristy E. Blalock, LCPC, LCADAS, MAC, NCC, BCPC, CADS
Secretary, MADC

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