



"Being here for Maryland's Children, Youth, and Families"

**Testimony submitted to
House Health & Government Operations Committee
March 21, 2024**

**Senate Bill 409: Health Occupations-Clinical Marriage & Family
Therapists-Reciprocal License Requirements
Support**

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 409. The bill waives certain license requirements in order to create a system of reciprocity for qualified practitioners in adjacent states.

This bill is important because of the extreme shortage of licensed mental health professionals at a time of desperate need in our communities. I am the director of an agency that provides clinical services to youth and their families. It has taken us months to recruit and hire for the positions that have been open in our agency in the last two years. This delay in hiring has prevented those in need from accessing timely assistance when a family's situation may be most critical.

HB 628, if passed, would increase the pool of Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists in the Maryland workforce and would provide necessary relief to agencies like ours and the families we serve.

Again, I request that you please support SB 409.

Respectfully Submitted:

Wendy Wilcox, LCMFT
MAYSB Vice Chair