



*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary*

Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners  
4201 Patterson Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21215

March 11, 2025

The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Chair, Economic Matters  
230 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB 1404 - Workers' Compensation – Rehabilitation Practitioners – Licensed Certified Social Worker–Clinical – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

The Board of Social Worker Examiners (BSWE) is writing this Letter of Support for HB 1404. As the highest independent clinical level of social work, a Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical (LCSW-C) is competent to provide professional services relevant to assisting injured workers via a Workman's Compensation claim. In fact, they are already authorized to assist injured workers through evaluation and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, conditions and impairments when involved in a Worker's Compensation case. Providing clinical mental health services to these clients is well within the scope of practice for a LCSW-C.

However, the LCSW-C is underutilized in this work despite being recognized by the Workers Compensation Commission (WCC) for their skills (COMAR: WCC Chapter 14, Title 08). Unfortunately, the LCSW-C is not readily identifiable to the public or referral sources such as attorneys, the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DORS), and other private or public rehabilitation providers.

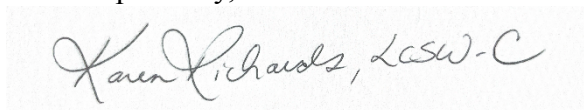
This bill will clarify and authorize LCSW-Cs to be listed as a "Rehabilitation Practitioner" once they meet the training and regulation requirements of the WCC. Since the LCSW-C is the highest clinical level of social work licensure in Maryland, they would qualify for the additional training required to become certified as a Rehabilitation Practitioner. Obtaining this recognition will allow LCSW-Cs to specialize and/or expand their scope of practice. There is a shortage of qualified mental health practitioners to provide services to people injured in the course of employment. This legislation will fill this need and elevate Social Work among other health care professions.

BSWE is pleased to support this bill that will provide another avenue for practice specialization for LCSW-Cs. Since they are at the highest level of practice licensure, many LCSW-Cs seek

specializations that allow them to expand their training and skills. This legislation supports these endeavors without putting additional regulation oversight on the Board of Social Work.

For these reasons, the Board of Social Work Examiners requests a favorable vote on HB 1404. For more information, please contact me at 410-740-4722 or at [karen.richards2@maryland.gov](mailto:karen.richards2@maryland.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Richards, LCSW-C". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Karen Richards, LCSW-C  
Executive Director, BSWE

*The opinion of the Board of Social Work Examiners expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*