

**To:** Maryland General Assembly, Senate Finance Committee

**Re:** SB0379 State Board of Social Work Examiners - Membership and Examination Requirements

**Position:** Favorable

February 4, 2025

Good Afternoon Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Please accept the [final report](#) recommendations made by the [MD Workgroup on Social Work Requirements for Licensure](#) and **vote favorable** on **SB379**. This bill will add **greatly needed** accountability to the Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) by adding two more consumer members, and create a more equitable path to social work licensure i.e. **higher paying jobs for over a thousand Marylanders who are often already economically disenfranchised by society.**

#### **FAST FACTS**

- **Bachelors in Social Work** already have **400+ hours** of supervised practice. **Masters in Social Work** already have **900+ hours** of supervised practice.
- **Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont** have paused or removed exam barriers. There is **no evidence** that social workers licensed without an exam have been treated any differently.
- **1,227** more **Marylanders** with social work licensure could **fill statewide job vacancies** while allowing these **workers to make more money!**

Thank you for accepting my testimony. Please find a **favorable report** on **SB379**.

Sincerely,

Maria F. Smith, MSW, LCSW-C  
Rockville, Maryland  
District 18