

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
From: Megan M. Gleason

**RE: SUPPORT SB 174 – Social Work Compact**

I am an LCSW-C. Please consider supporting the Social Work Interstate Compact. I am currently working with a client in college who leaves the area each summer and two clients who travel to other states regularly for work. I had to refer two clients to other providers because they moved from our area. The psychologists I know can provide their clients with continued support, yet I can't provide the same level of care while only holding licenses in Maryland, Washington, DC, and Massachusetts.

The Social Work Compact joins other health care Compacts (including PSYPACT, in which MD participates) and will benefit consumers, licensure boards, and the social work profession by:

- Providing a tool for addressing workforce shortages by allowing increased availability of mental health clinicians to care for vulnerable MD children and adults who are suffering as a result of the mental health crisis and the scarcity of clinicians;
- Supporting military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their social work licenses when relocating and serve those in the jurisdiction they move to;
- Enhancing mobility for clinical social workers who meet the Compact uniform licensure requirements; and
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure by creating a shared data system which reduces administrative burdens and by reducing application processing time.

The Social Work Compact will allow LCSW-Cs to work in other states without having to become licensed separately in these states under certain conditions: if the LCSW-C's home state joins the Compact; if the LCSW-C then joins the Compact as an individual and pays the set fee for a separate Compact license; and if the LCSW-C has no actionable complaints.

Thank you for all the work you do to benefit the citizens of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Megan M. Gleason

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