

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill:	SB 174 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact
Hearing Date:	January 28, 2025
Position:	Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) support Senate Bill 174 -Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact. The bill establishes a licensure compact for social workers. Similar to other licensure compacts, social workers would be authorized to practice in all Compact member states under a multistate licensure.

We are facing a crisis with the shortage of behavioral health professions in Maryland, as 21 of 24 jurisdictions have a mental health professional shortage area. Licensure compacts and other reciprocity arrangements will increase access for Marylanders by allowing health professionals, including social workers, from other states to provide in-person or telehealth services.

LCPCM urges the Committee to give SB 174 a FAVORABLE Report.

Please contact Andrea Mansfield at <u>amansfield@maniscanning.com</u> or (410) 562-1617 if we can provide additional information.