



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 20, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Senate Miller Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 1210 Workers Compensation – Evaluation of Permanent Impairment- Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) is writing this letter in support of HB 1210. The Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical (LCSW-C) is the highest independent level of clinical social work licensure in Maryland. The scope of practice for an LCSW-C includes the ability to *evaluate, diagnose and treat biopsychosocial conditions, mental and emotional conditions and impairments, and mental disorders as defined in Health-General Article, §10-101(f), Annotated Code of Maryland.*

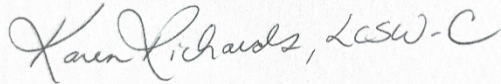
Currently, the LCSW-C is authorized to evaluate and treat the injured worker as a part of the treatment process in a Workers Compensation case. However, they have not been able to render an opinion on “permanent impairment.” This legislation would give LCSW-Cs the opportunity to be qualified as an “Expert Witness” in conducting evaluations and rendering a decision of permanent impairment in the case of Mental or Emotional Disorders, Conditions, or Impairments.

Enacting this legislation will encourage LCSW-Cs to engage in additional training and certifications to expand their scope of practice to not only treat injured workers but to also serve

as expert witnesses. This will elevate their status as evaluators of individuals who have suffered permanent mental health impairments. Due to the shortage of qualified mental health care practitioners, this legislation would benefit both social workers and the stakeholders involved in the Workers Compensation field.

For these reasons, the Board of Social Work Examiners requests a favorable vote on HB 1210. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 410-740-4722 or at 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 background.

Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Executive Director

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