



2025 POSITION PAPER HB 1210

WORKERS' COMPENSATION – EVALUATION OF PERMANENT IMPAIRMENTS – LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER - CLINICAL FAVORABLE

Currently, only licensed psychiatrists or psychologists are authorized to conduct the necessary evaluations and generate the requisite reports in support of an injured worker's claim for permanent behavioral or mental disorder disability benefits. In the context of permanent mental health impairments, the Maryland Association of Justice (MAJ) supports the expansion of this authority to include Licensed Certified Social Workers—Clinical (LCSW-Cs), recognizing their professional qualifications and ability to contribute meaningfully to the evaluation process.

In order to pursue a claim for permanent disability benefits, whether arising from physical or mental injury, an injured worker is required to undergo a formal impairment evaluation. Specifically for mental health impairment evaluations, workers are currently required to seek assessments from a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist, despite a significant shortage of available providers. These evaluations, which are necessary before the declaration of a permanent injury, are vital to ensure that injured workers receive fair and timely determinations of their permanent impairment. Expanding the scope of eligible evaluators to include LCSW-Cs, who are already trained and qualified to conduct impairment evaluations, would dramatically increase the pool of providers, thereby enhancing access to necessary services for injured workers across the state. This expansion is both a pragmatic and equitable solution to meet the growing demand for qualified mental health evaluators, ultimately benefiting injured workers, employers, and the broader community.

The Maryland Association for Justice urges a FAVORABLE Report on HB1210

About Maryland Association for Justice

The Maryland Association for Justice (MAJ) represents over 1,250 trial attorneys throughout the state of Maryland. MAJ advocates for the preservation of the civil justice system, the protection of the rights of consumers and the education and professional development of its members.

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