

SUPPORT HB 345 - Support for Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



TO: Chair Luke Clippinger and House Judiciary Com.
FROM: Phil Caroom, MAJR Executive Committee
DATE: January 23, 2025

On behalf of Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR - www.ma4jr.org), I urge your favorable report on House Bill 345 / Senate Bill 174 to permit interstate licensure of social workers for three reasons:

- 1) The Mental Health Association of Maryland reports that our state faces a substantial shortage of social workers which is expected to worsen in coming years. Our communities and families would benefit from a more sufficient supply of well-trained social workers to help mitigate and reduce issues, including juvenile delinquency and crime-related concerns.
- 2) In my personal experience as a trial judge, I have had the occasion to work with several social workers who previously had been licensed by and practiced in other states before arriving in the State of Maryland to work. My experience was that they uniformly were well-educated and well-prepared by their education and experience in sister states. There seems to be no reason that Maryland has a monopoly on providing good education and training for our social workers.
- 3) The proposed legislation originates from the Council of State Governments which has studied the issue and approved this plan. Seven sister states already have endorsed this interstate system. Maryland would benefit by doing the same.

For these reasons, MAJR urges a favorable report on HB 345.

PLEASE NOTE: Phil Caroom offers this testimony for Md. Alliance for Justice Reform and not for the Md. Judiciary or any other unit of state government.