

**To:** Maryland General Assembly, Senate Finance Committee

**Re:** HB1521 State Board of Social Work Examiners - Membership and Examination Requirements

**Position:** Favorable

March 11, 2025

Good Afternoon Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Maryland House and Government Operations Committee,

Thank you very much for your support of **HB1521**! Please accept the [final report](#) recommendations made by the hard working [MD Workgroup on Social Work Requirements for Licensure](#) (that you helped form in 2023!) and vote favorable on HB1521. This bill will add greatly needed accountability to the Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) and create a more equitable path to social work licensure i.e. higher paying jobs for over a thousand Marylanders. It is time we as social workers stop using exams that do not actually measure competency!

#### **FAST FACTS**

- **Bachelors in Social Work** already have **400+ hours** of supervised practice. **Masters in Social Work** already have **900+ hours** of supervised practice.
- **Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont** have paused or removed exam barriers. There is **no evidence** that social workers licensed without an exam are any less competent.
- **1,227** more **Marylanders** with social work licensure could **fill statewide job vacancies** while allowing these **workers to make more money!**

Thank you for accepting my testimony. Please find a **favorable report** on **HB1521**.

Sincerely,

Maria F. Smith, MSW, LCSW-C  
Rockville, Maryland  
District 18