



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request **FAVORABLE Report** – HB0345 – Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB0345 – Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact**, sponsored by Delegate Kenneth Kerr. This bill would enact the above compact, developed in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD), the Council of State Governments (CSG), and the Association of Social Work Boards to support the mobility of licensed social workers. This additional licensing pathway will facilitate multistate practice among member states and reduce the barriers to license portability.

By passing HB0345, Maryland can join an active interstate licensure compact that will:

- Eliminate barriers to practice and client care while ensuring public protection.
- Improve access to professional social work services.
- **Support relocating military spouses, a key goal of the MMC.**
- Enhance public safety.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports HB0345** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Health and Government Operations Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Delegate Kerr for sponsoring this legislation and his support of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics
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Legislative Director

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