

TO: The Honorable Joselyn Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ken Kerr & Jamila Woods

FROM: Danielle Tiley, LCSW-C

DATE: January 23, 2025

RE: SUPPORT – House Bill 345- Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Madam Chair, Pena-Melnyk and Distinguished Members of the House and Government Operations Committee:

As a licensed social worker based in University Park, Maryland, I am proud to serve clients across multiple jurisdictions. I hold licenses in both Maryland and Washington, D.C., and I am currently navigating the process—and costs—of obtaining licensure in Virginia to continue serving clients who have relocated there. This experience highlights the significant challenges faced by social workers and underscores the urgent need for an interstate compact for social work.

An interstate compact would be a game-changer for both social workers and the clients we serve. For clients, continuity of care is vital. Relocating to a new state often brings upheaval and stress, and the ability to maintain a trusted therapeutic relationship can provide stability and support during a critical time. The compact would remove the barriers that currently force clients to start over with a new therapist, ensuring they can continue their care without disruption.

For clinicians, the compact would ease the administrative burden of maintaining multiple licenses across state lines. Currently, we must navigate a maze of licensing fees, continuing education requirements, and renewal deadlines, all of which vary by jurisdiction. This fragmented system not only creates financial and logistical strain but also detracts from the time and energy we could otherwise dedicate to our clients.

The social work profession is built on the principles of accessibility, equity, and client-centered care. An interstate compact aligns with these values by

fostering a more seamless and equitable system for both clients and practitioners. I urge you to support Bill 345 and help create a framework that supports continuity of care, reduces barriers for clinicians, and ultimately strengthens the profession of social work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Tiley, LCSW-C, LICSW
Clinical Social Worker