



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**Maryland Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists**  
**4201 Patterson Avenue**  
**Baltimore, MD 21215**

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### 2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO:** HB 1474  
**COMMITTEE:** Health & Government Operations  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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**TITLE:** Licensed Professional Counselors – Telehealth – Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education

**BILL ANALYSIS:** For the purpose of authorizing an out-of-state licensed professional counselor to provide clinical professional counseling services to certain students enrolled in institutions of higher education in the State under certain circumstances.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) respectfully opposes HB 1474. While the Bill has good intentions, the Board feels that it is unimplementable and unenforceable.

It is understandable that an individual leaving for college would want to receive continued mental health support from a provider who they were working with in their home state. However, the Board firmly believes that this is not advisable from both a clinical perspective and from the perspective of being responsible stewards of protecting individuals from receiving less than optimum care. The Board is also concerned about what kind of precedent this Bill would set for similar situations such as person traveling on vacation, an individual relocating, etc.

HB 1474 would restrict the Board’s ability to properly protect the public and is not clinically the most responsible course of treatment. An established and robust argument can be made that it is not in the best interest of a young person who is already possibly vulnerable to mental health challenges to have a clinician that is in another location. Transitioning to college can be an intense experience that is fluid, and with challenges that can arise quickly. In an acute crisis a clinician in another state is not able to provide the necessary supports and is unable to monitor and help to stabilize the client in real time as a local provider would. The local provider is also more familiar with local mental health resources than a provider not practicing in or is familiar with Maryland. It would not be feasible for the Board to monitor whether or not an out-of-state provider is licensed, with the appropriate credentials. All out-of-state providers are afforded the option to properly credential in Maryland and provide services to Maryland residents. This process provides oversight for the care provided in our State and engages the provider with

Maryland resources and ensures that we are not providing ‘one off’ exceptions to care for those in our State who we have the responsibility to protect. The Board strongly believes that this precedent of allowing college students to see out-of-state providers will lead to many other situations where the public could adopt this same protocol.

Therefore, the Board respectfully urges the Committee to submit an unfavorable vote on HB 1474.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Winnie Moore, Board Chair, at (240) 346-9712 or email [Winnie.moore@maryland.gov](mailto:Winnie.moore@maryland.gov) or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison at (443) 794-4757 or [lillian.reese@maryland.gov](mailto:lillian.reese@maryland.gov).

*The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*