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January 21, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of the Interstate Social Work Compact

Chairperson, Members of the Committee, and Esteemed Elected Officials:

I am Mirrandia Young, a Population Health Manager at WVU Medicine. In our commitment to providing comprehensive care, we employ social workers licensed in Maryland to support patients and families in need. I am honored to present this testimony in strong support of the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact, which will significantly enhance our ability to serve communities across state lines.

#### **Enhancing Workforce Mobility**

The Compact is designed to eliminate the necessity for social workers to obtain licenses from multiple states by providing for the mutual recognition of licenses among member states.

#### **Addressing Workforce Shortages**

By facilitating interstate practice, the Compact allows for a more dynamic response to areas experiencing shortages of social work professionals. This flexibility ensures that communities in need have timely access to qualified practitioners, thereby addressing disparities in service availability.

#### **Maintaining Professional Standards**

It is important to note that the Compact maintains rigorous standards for licensure. Social workers seeking multistate licensure must hold or be eligible for an active, unencumbered license in their home state, complete a background check, and meet continuing education requirements.

In conclusion, the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact is a forward-thinking solution that addresses current challenges in the social work profession. By supporting this Compact, we take a significant step toward a more adaptable, efficient, and responsive social work infrastructure, ultimately benefiting the communities we serve.

Thank you for considering this testimony. I urge the Committee to support the passage of the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact.

Respectfully,

Mirrandia Young, MSW LICSW