



Silverman Treatment Solutions, LLC
8930 Stanford Blvd, Suite M100; Columbia, MD 21045
Phone: (443) 285-0807 | Fax: (443) 285-0527
silvermantreatment.com

House Health and Government Operations Committee
January 30, 2025

House Bill 256 - Health Occupations Boards - Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions
Support with Amendment

Honorable Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the ongoing challenges experienced by our Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) in maintaining consistent and timely correspondence with the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists. As an OTP provider, our primary goal is to ensure uninterrupted, high-quality care to individuals undergoing treatment for substance use disorders (SUDs). However, persistent delays and lack of communication from the Board have significantly impacted our ability to meet regulatory requirements and maintain clinical operations.

Despite numerous attempts by our counselors to achieve certification advancement well in advance of their expiration dates, we have faced considerable challenges in obtaining timely responses from the Board. These delays have directly resulted in the unintended expiration of counselor certifications, ultimately leading to detrimental consequences for both our staff and the patients we serve. Most recently, our OTP received a citation during a state Behavioral Health Administration compliance review due to expired counselor certifications—a situation that could have been entirely avoidable with timely intervention from the Board.

The inability of the Board to provide prompt and reliable responses to certification inquiries places a substantial burden not only on individual counselors but also on OTP providers across the state. Under existing regulations, OTPs are legally required to employ certified clinicians to deliver essential treatment services. When certification issues arise and remain unresolved, our ability to comply with state mandates is jeopardized, potentially disrupting patient care and undermining the progress of individuals striving for recovery.

Furthermore, the lack of responsiveness from the Board exacerbates workforce challenges within the field of addiction treatment. Counselors face unnecessary stress and uncertainty as they navigate prolonged administrative processes, which may deter qualified professionals from remaining in or entering the field. This ongoing issue ultimately threatens the stability and effectiveness of OTP services statewide.

We are committed to working collaboratively with the Board and other stakeholders to address these challenges and ensure that individuals receiving SUD treatment continue to access the care they need without interruption. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We ask that this Committee shorten the sunset provision for the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to two years.

Respectfully submitted,

Teron Powell
Executive Director
Silverman Treatment Solutions, LLC
tpowell@addictionmedical.net
443-285-0807 office; 443-285-0527 fax
Website: www.silvermantreatment.com