



DATE: March 3, 2026      COMMITTEE: Senate Finance  
BILL NO: Senate Bill 874  
BILL TITLE: Health Occupations - Social Workers - Scopes of Practice  
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports Senate Bill 874 - Health Occupations - Social Workers - Scopes of Practice.

**Bill Summary:**

Senate Bill 874 updates and clarifies terminology used in social work licensure.

**Background:**

Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive, and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based, and community-based programs. Over 27,000 individuals receive services annually at Kennedy Krieger. We employ more than 3400 persons who play a vital role in our mission to transform the lives of children with disorders of the brain.

At Kennedy Krieger, clinical social workers (more than 100 employed by us) are an essential part of our interdisciplinary teams of professionals. Through their work our clinical social workers utilize evidence-based and evidence informed interventions to enable individuals and their families to draw upon their natural strengths to manage the ongoing realities and stresses of disability, mental health conditions and profound medical conditions that affect individual, family and community functioning and relationships. Additionally, bachelor's level social workers provide impactful case management and care coordination services. Additionally, we have robust clinical training pathways for individuals at the bachelors, masters, post master's level and doctoral level. Clinical social workers provide the following clinical services, as determined by individual and family needs, through any one of the department's inpatient or outpatient programs at Kennedy Krieger.

- Clinical evaluation of individual and family functioning
- Development of an individualized treatment plan
- Individual, family, and group therapy and counseling
- Parent training
- Educational, support and stress management groups
- Case management

**Rationale:**

Senate Bill 874 serves to provide clear delineation regarding the alignment of professional social work activities in the areas of education, training, supervision and scope of practice to support the best interests of the public. This guidance also serves to preserve the professional integrity and efficacy of social workers in Maryland. This clarity ensures that competent, ethical and evidence-based social work services remain available for those in need. Additionally, maintaining clear professional boundaries supports effective utilization of resources to aid individuals in achieving identified goals.

**Kennedy Krieger requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 874.**