

March 10, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and distinguished members of the Finance Committee,

NAMI Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a network of more than 60,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illnesses, their families, and the wider community.

SB522 acknowledges the essential role clinical social workers play in our healthcare infrastructure and ensures they can practice to the full extent of their specialized training. By allowing LCSW-C to perform permanent impairment evaluations for workers compensation claims involving behavioral or mental disorders, we are recognizing the expertise these professionals bring to the mental health field.

LCSW are uniquely trained to evaluate, diagnosis, and treat these conditions. Incorporating LCSW-C into the worker's compensation into the worker's compensation process, we are ensuring injured workers can receive timely evaluations from qualified experts who understand the complexity of their mental health challenges in a clinical context.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

Stephanie Slowly-Little
Executive Director
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland

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