

Dear legislators and fellow Marylanders,

I write to you today as a newly licensed (2/3/2026) social worker who knows firsthand the challenges and concerns presented within the licensure exam process. Throughout the past several months, I have studied and prepared for a 4-hour exam that does not reflect my already exemplary service as a social worker. I was regularly informed by former classmates, professors, and administrators that the exam proffers an often-biased means of reinforcing textbook responses that does not honor the humanity of the populations we serve.

In 2022, the license exam was exposed to have [disparate outcomes based on race](#). In February of 2025, [Dean Judy Postmus](#) from the University of Maryland, Baltimore's School of Social Work testified that social work students must "engage in hundreds of supervised hours in real-world settings working directly with individuals, families, and communities, under the guidance of experienced social work professionals. This rigorous preparation is far more indicative of their ability to succeed as social workers than a single standardized exam, which has shown to disproportionately disadvantage certain groups including Black test takers, older adults, and non-native English speakers throughout the country."

Fellow Marylanders deserve access to social workers and therapists who have already demonstrated their capacity for compassionate care. The financial and licensing barriers that unduly prevent social workers from serving those in need can be removed with your vote. I implore you to uplift your fellow Marylanders with support for this measure.

Humbly,

b.a. medina