



Senate Finance Committee

April 1, 2026

House Bill 883 – *Consumer Protection – Artificial Intelligence – Behavioral Health Care Prohibitions*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work (GWSCSW) was established in 1975 to promote and advance the specialization of clinical practice within the social work profession. Clinical social workers are licensed to evaluate, diagnose and treat mental disorders and substance use and addictive disorders and are licensed as medical professionals. Through our lobbying, education, community building, and social justice activities, we affirm our commitment to the needs of those in our profession, their clients, and the community at large. The Maryland Legislation and Advocacy Committee of GWSCSW **strongly supports House Bill 883.**

House Bill 883 ensures that any providers of artificial intelligence (AI) in the state of Maryland clarify to users that the AI product, bot, or program is not a healthcare provider and may not provide a service or experience that would constitute the practice of behavioral health care if provided by a behavioral health care provider. The “practice of behavioral health care” includes evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment of psychiatric or mental disorders. House Bill 883 specifically requires conspicuous notice that a consumer is not communicating or interacting with a human. It also requires the AI program to take steps to detect and address suicidal ideations or expression of self-harm by the user. The AI is required to refer the user to behavioral health services or to the Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System’s services when these issues are detected. If the AI program does not have these protocols successfully in place, the developer is subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000,000 for each violation and authorizes the Attorney General to investigate and bring an action for an alleged violation of this Act.

As artificial intelligence continues to grow in its impact on our lives, we have both benefited from its ability to gather large amounts of information quickly, as well as suffered intensely from its ability to lead impressionable individuals, particularly young people, to tragic, self-destructive acts. Strengthening protocols that distributors are required for AI to support are necessary to keep Marylanders safe from the risks that have become evident from the use of these non-human interactions with AI. Even programs that are not designed to provide mental health care can impact vulnerable individuals and lead them to misinterpret language used by AI as support for suicidal or homicidal thoughts. For these reasons we strongly urge passage of this bill.

For more information:

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