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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB1119**  
**Health Occupations - Social Workers - Scopes of Practice**

Good afternoon, Chair Bagnall and honorable members of the House Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present HB1119, **Health Occupations - Social Workers - Scopes of Practice**. HB1119 provides a much needed update and clarification on the scope of practice for licensed social workers in the state of Maryland. The primary goal of the legislation ensures that Marylanders receive competent and effective care by establishing clear and professional standards for every category of social work licensure.

As the profession of social work evolves, so too should the standards and guidelines surrounding professional and educational practice.

Critically, this legislation does the following

- Licensed Bachelor Social Workers (LBSW) are able to perform vital generalist work such as psychosocial assessments, case management, and client advocacy.
- Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW) are able to perform the functions of an LBSW, conduct assessments, develop treatment plans, and provide psychotherapy - provided that they are under the supervision of an LSCW-C
- Licensed Certified Social Workers-Clinical (LSCW-C) are affirmed to practice independently, provide advanced diagnoses and treatment, and provide clinical supervision in accordance with board regulations.

HB1119 also reflects today's changing reality, writing in the use of telehealth, electronic practice, and other evidence-informed technologies. This ensures that individuals without reliable services or with transportation challenges can access consistent and crucial care.

In addition to professional clarity, the State Board of Social Work Examiners has confirmed its ability to implement these changes using its existing budget resources. There is no additional cost to the State or the public in achieving a higher standard of care.

By modernizing our standards for the field of social work as well as defining the increased scope of practice, we ensure a more efficient, competent, and qualified workforce for the State and people of Maryland. Thank you all for your time and consideration and I respectfully request your favorable consideration.