



BROOK LANE

Hope • Healing • Recovery

Written Testimony

House Health and Government Operations Committee

HB1130 Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations.

March 3, 2022

Position: Support

Brook Lane strongly **supports HB1130 - Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations.**

Brook Lane is the largest provider of mental health services in the rural panhandle of Mountain Maryland and employs over 500 staff. More than half of those staff members are licensed or certified professionals, including Registered Nurses, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Social Workers, and Certified Addictions Counselors. Brook Lane has experienced staff shortages as a result of the COVID pandemic, and this has been compounded by the delays in licensure renewal of our professionals. Brook Lane has 57 inpatient psychiatric beds, as well as a full continuum of outpatient programs that serve the most vulnerable in our state. We must have licensed staff in order to keep these programs operational. As the largest provider of inpatient services providing psychiatric beds for adults and children serving the western counties, our ability in keeping these beds open requires licensed staff. The delays and challenges from the licensure boards brought on by the cyber-attack on state servers is a true barrier to this objective. At a time when psychiatric beds are scarce and acute care hospitals are experiencing overcrowding and boarding of psychiatric patients, keeping all services open and functioning to full capacity is critical. Brook Lane believes that this legislation is a necessary, immediate step to ensure program providers are able to fully staff and operate their programs at full capacity and organizations such as Brook Lane can continue to serve the most vulnerable and at risk population in Maryland.

Brook Lane urges you to act now on this emergency legislation to address the artificial barriers of delays to licensure, certification and registration renewal of professionals, by freezing expiration of those licenses, certifications and registrations until such time as the impact of the cybersecurity attacks have been resolve. We therefore respectfully request a favorable report on **HB1130 Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations.**



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About Brook Lane

Brook Lane is western Maryland's largest, non-profit mental health system. The main campus in Hagerstown, MD is home to the second largest freestanding psychiatric hospital in Maryland, serving children, adolescents, and adults. Brook Lane provides partial hospitalization services for both adults and children in multiple locations and operates Title 1 special education schools in Washington County and Frederick County. Brook Lane's three outpatient locations offer psychiatry services and therapy for all ages. Our THRIVE program provides children with special needs psychiatric care, as well as physical, occupational and speech therapy services. The Brook Lane InSTEP program provides outpatient and intensive outpatient treatment options for individuals with substance use treatment needs.

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