

Finance Committee

March 5, 2024

Senate Bill 931

Workers' Compensation – Rehabilitation Practitioners – Licensed Social Workers

*****Support with Amendments*****

The National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter is a professional organization representing over 3,000 social workers statewide. We are submitting this letter of Support with Amendments on Senate Bill 931.

This bill authorizes certain licensed social workers to register as a rehabilitation practitioner; and authorizes a licensed certified social worker-clinical to provide evaluation services for workers' compensation claims related to permanent impairments involving a behavioral or mental disorder.

We believe that these authorizations are appropriate and in keeping with the scope of practice for licensed social workers and licensed certified social workers-clinical. Therefore, we support the basic premise of this bill.

However, we are aware that the Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) does not certify licensees for specific kinds of practice and does not have any desire to do so. We understand that there is a suggested amendment to remove references in the bill that the BSWE certify licensed social workers as rehabilitation practitioners. With that amendment, we would give the bill our full support.

We ask that you support SB 931 with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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