

February 1, 2024

***DELIVERED VIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES SPEAK [PORTAL](#)***

The Hon. Karrie K. Delaney, Chair  
House General Laws - Professions/Occupations and Administrative Process Committee  
Virginia House of Delegates  
General Assembly Building  
201 North 9th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**RE: Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. Testimony In Favor of House Bill 326 – The Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact**

Dear Chair Delaney and distinguished members of the Committee:

The Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. (“Pyramid Healthcare”) family of companies urges the Committee to favorably adopt HB 326 to have Virginia join the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact (“SW Compact”).

As background, Pyramid Healthcare is an integrated behavioral healthcare system serving Medicaid and commercial clients in 9 states across a continuum of residential and outpatient substance abuse, mental health, autism, and eating disorder treatment services. We employ 3,100 team members across our 80+ active facilities.

In Virginia, we operate two facilities and plan to continue building out our substance use disorder treatment capacity across the Commonwealth. Our Newport News center has been operating since July 2021 and offers 150 withdrawal management/detox and residential treatment beds for adults. In that location, we also offer outpatient treatment for adults with substance use and co-occurring disorders, including intensive outpatient services, outpatient services, certified peer recovery support services, case management support, and family therapy. Our New River Valley facility opened in August 2023 and currently offers residential and partial hospitalization programming for adults struggling with substance use and co-occurring disorders throughout the New River Valley, and we intend to ultimately offer the full continuum of care in this location as well, including withdrawal management services. Finally, we will soon begin the construction of a 100-bed residential detoxification and rehabilitation treatment facility in King George County, Virginia.

Virginia has already recognized the value of interstate licensure compacts, having previously adopted the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, Counseling Compact, Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (“REPLICA”), Nurses Licensure Compact, Occupational Therapy Compact, Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (“PSYPACT”), and the Physical Therapy Compact. Missouri has already adopted the SW Compact and legislation is currently pending in 23 other states.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the SW

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<sup>1</sup> <https://swcompact.org/compact-map/>.

Compact is supported by the Council of State Governments (“CSG”), the U.S. Department of Defense (“DoD”), and the Association of Social Work Boards (“ASWB”), as well as numerous other organizations who helped develop the SW Compact.<sup>2</sup>

The Social Work Licensure Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact that allows social workers with bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees, and clinical licenses to provide services to clients in all other Compact states instead of having to file duplicate license applications in each state in which they practice.<sup>3</sup> Each Compact state extends licensure reciprocity to the other states in the Compact. In order to be eligible, a social worker must first already be eligible for or hold a social work license in their primary state of residence and meet other criteria. After the social worker’s eligibility is determined, they receive a multistate license and may begin working in any SW Compact member state.

There are over 500,000 licensed social workers across the United States and Pyramid Healthcare employs many social workers across our counseling, operations, clinical, quality, compliance, and utilization review teams, among other functions. The SW Compact will streamline the licensing process while reducing administrative burden and allowing social workers to quickly resume providing care. It does so while protecting patient and public safety.

Joining the SW Compact will facilitate multistate practice and reduce the barriers to license portability for our current and potential employees by easing mobility across state lines, expanding employment opportunities to address crucial workforce shortages, allowing continuity of care for our patients that move across state lines, allows the use of telehealth to be leveraged, and supports the relocation of military spouses and their families.

Given Virginia’s unique geographic location, bordering North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia –as well as the presence of major military installations where members of the military and their families are frequently relocated into and out of the region, the SW Compact will positively impact the state’s ability to attract and retain qualified and desperately needed social workers.

Please adopt HB 326 to have Virginia join the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact. Thank you for your support of behavioral health providers – including those in both mental health and substance use – in Virginia and for considering our policy proposals and recommendations on behalf of Pyramid Healthcare. If we can provide any additional information or materials, please contact me at [crosier@pyramidhc.com](mailto:crosier@pyramidhc.com) or 667-270-1582. In addition, we invite the Committee to reach out and schedule a visit to our Newport News or New River Valley locations sometime soon to learn more about our programs and services.

Sincerely,



Collan B. Rosier  
Vice President of Government Relations

**CC: House General Laws - Professions/Occupations and Administrative Process Committee  
George Cain, Committee Clerk  
Ashley Binns, Joanne Frye, Rebecca Schultz, DLS Attorneys**

<sup>2</sup> <https://swcompact.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://swcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2023/02/Social-Work-Licensure-Compact-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.