



February 3, 2015

ATTN: Senate Committee on Health Care

Subject: The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Oregon Chapter Supports SB 230

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Committee,

SB 230, which changes the Oregon Health Authority's licensing data collection effort for Social Workers, as well as other professions, from a voluntary program to mandatory, has been reviewed by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Oregon Chapter's Legislative Committee. After careful deliberation, NASW Oregon, on behalf of our approximately 1,700 members, has endorsed SB 230. NASW Oregon's Legislative Committee believes the data collection effort will help the Oregon Health Authority make better informed policy decisions—benefiting all Oregonians.

Considering our state's health care workforce shortage, reliable data on our current workforce is a critical tool in the effort to alleviate the shortage. Although social workers would have to pay slightly more for license renewal under SB 230, we found that the benefits of stronger data on our workforce outweighs the cost of a slight increase license renewal fees.

Lastly, NASW Oregon Chapter thanks the Oregon Health Authority's staff for proactively reaching out to NASW and other similarly related organizations to discuss SB 230 well before this hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delmar Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Delmar Stone

Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers – Oregon Chapter