

Submitter: Michaela Grillo  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

Hello,

I am a licensed clinical social worker who earned my license in Oregon and currently practice in Oregon. I oppose this legislation for several reasons:

1) It was a very difficult and complicated process to find supervisors for my licensure process. I switched jobs 3 or 4 times while earning my independent license and had to fill out lots of paperwork for each new social work supervisor. My understanding is that this bill will require social workers to have additional supervision from professionals in other fields than social work. This seems to increase the administrative burden exponentially and will make it extremely difficult for young social workers to find adequate supervision, and also prevent them from switching jobs at a time in their early career when it is important for them to have the flexibility to explore different subfields of social work.

2) Furthermore, LPCs and Psychologists are not qualified to supervise social workers. We have different training, different models and a different theoretical premises under which we operate. All social workers are trained in the biopsychosocial model which is distinct from traditional psychology in that it emphasizes the role of social systems and communities in mental health, and de-emphasized individual pathology when assessing mental illness. I believe this is a crucial distinction which must be maintained and respected when training new social work professionals. Most psychologists and LPCs lack this crucial perspective and are therefore not suitable for providing supervision to LCSWs.

3) Finally, the Oregon Board of Social Work has done an exceptional job at supporting me as I moved through my licensure process. Their portal is clean, simple and user-friendly, and their staff has been consistently responsive and competent in answering my questions and supporting my career over the last 10 years. I think you would risk destroying a high-functioning, effective office by folding it into a mass organization which, under the name of "efficiency," might bungle a well-running program and overlook the specialized needs of social work professionals.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Michaela Grillo, LCSW