

Submitter: Scott Wilson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB4083. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a former member of the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers, I recognize the intent of expanding the clinical supervision of social workers to include other disciplines. One of the core values of Social Work is equity. Oregon is a vast state and social workers, particularly in rural areas, may not have the same access to supervisors as others. Current rules allow Licensed Clinical Psychologists and Psychiatrists to provide up to 50 percent of a Clinical Social Worker Associate's supervision hours. While on the board, I asked fellow members to explore expanding allowable supervisors to include Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists and Licensed Professional Counselors with the same limitations of 50 percent of total hours; an item that has been discussed since then in the Rules Advisory Committee of which I am currently a member. Social Workers are not the same as LMFTs, LPCs, psychologists, or psychiatrists. Allowing a new social worker to receive the entirety of their supervision by a different discipline is a disservice to social workers and Oregonians. There are certainly aspects of supervision that these other disciplines would be well qualified to address, but to assume that supervision they provide would be equivalent and comprehensive of the social work profession is inaccurate and irresponsible.