

Submitter: Linnea Stenhouse
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Oregon and an approved supervisor for social workers pursuing licensure. I support the credentialing provisions of HB 4083, which would streamline organizational credentialing and improve access to quality behavioral health care for Oregon residents; my concerns are limited to the bill's supervision and regulatory consolidation provisions.

Social work is a distinct clinical discipline with its own education, scope of practice, and Code of Ethics. Supervision is a core mechanism for ensuring ethical practice, professional competence, and public protection, and it must be aligned with the supervisee's professional training and standards.

The Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers already has a well-established, transparent rulemaking process to address supervision and credentialing issues, including approval of alternative supervisors through stakeholder-informed review. The supervision provisions in HB 4083 are duplicative of work already underway and bypass a regulatory process that is currently functioning effectively.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to preserve the credentialing improvements in HB 4083 while amending or removing the supervision and regulatory consolidation provisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Linnea Stenhouse, LCSW