

Submitter:

Miranda Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4083

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), I strongly oppose this proposition to transfer the duties of the BLSW to the MHRA and to require LPCs or LMFTs to supervise Clinical Social Work Associates (CSWAs) toward licensure.

Social Work is a distinct profession whose scope extends beyond the provision of mental health therapy. Social Workers are trained to operate within and across complex systems, including educational, healthcare, justice, legal, and immigration systems. This systems-based perspective is a foundational component of Social Work education and practice and distinguishes Social Workers from other licensed mental health professionals.

The training and supervision of CSWAs requires a deep understanding of systems navigation, advocacy, and the Social Work Code of Ethics. These competencies are integral to the professional development of future Social Workers and should be overseen by supervisors who possess specific Social Work education, training, and licensure.

Requiring supervision by professionals outside the Social Work discipline risks the profession's standards and undermines the integrity of Social Work training. I urge you to vote no on this measure to preserve the distinct role, ethical framework, and professional identity of Social Work.