

Submitter: Henri Shields
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

I am an LCSW in Oregon, working in private practice. I also work as an Adjunct Professor at Portland State University MSW program for the past 5 years and provide clinical supervision for licensure for CSWA candidates. I am deeply concerned about the proposed House Bill 4083 due to its potentially unintended consequences on the profession of social work as practiced in the State of Oregon. HB 4083 would potentially merge the Board of Licensed Social Workers with the Mental Health Regulatory Agency. The Mental Health Regulatory Agency houses the Oregon Board of Licensed Professionals and Therapists and the Oregon Board of Psychology. HB 4083 also requires Social Workers to be supervised by Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists in addition to Social Workers. Although the stated intention of the bill is to streamline the credentialing process, unfortunately functionally dissolving the Board of Licensed Social Workers would have the opposite effect. As a clinician duly credentialed in Oregon to provide both mental health counseling as an LCSW and substance abuse treatment as a CADCIII, I can attest to the need to have two boards to address the credentialing needs of each specialty and ethical and training guidelines to insure safe practice and care for every Oregonian seeking treatment. As a professor and Clinical supervisor I can attest to the unique needs of social work students and the profession which is best served by continuing to provide a specific governing body devoted to those needs.