

Submitter: Kelly L. Sullivan

On Behalf Of: Licensed Social Workers

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

I am a licensed clinical social worker who has worked in the field of social work for over 20 years and has been licensed for 15. Though I work in a mental health private practice and often collaborate with providers from various mental health disciplines, I think important perspectives and the distinct value of the social work approach would be lost if the Oregon Board of Social Workers was folded into a broader mental health entity. Not only is social work a broad discipline that includes more than clinical mental health, clinical social workers also have a unique approach and perspective that is evidenced in their education, training and consultation. I often seek consultation from providers of various disciplines; however, I have learned that certain situations benefit from the unique approach of social workers and I benefitted from supervision from the social work perspective and from being able to seek Board guidance from social workers.

I would strongly caution any action that oversimplifies the difference between the mental health disciplines and fails to take into account the broad scope of social work practice in support of a short-sighted administrative gain.