

Submitter: Amanda Heather

On Behalf Of: Licensed Social Workers

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

I am a licensed clinical social worker working part-time in private practice and approved to provide supervision to CSWAs. My comments are specific to portions of HB4083 as it is currently written. The portion of the bill that addresses credentialing is important and would be valuable for many providers and programs across Oregon. However, the Governor's office has included additional pieces specific to social workers that are concerning.

Outside of credentialing, I have concerns about this bill that would shift the social work board's administrative duties to the Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Social work is a distinct clinical discipline with its own education, scope of practice, and Code of Ethics.

HB4083 also attempts to address clinical supervision of social work associates-those who are in the process of working towards their license. Currently, by rule, licensed Psychologists are approved to provide supervision to social work associates. In September 2025, the OBL SW convened a rules advisory committee whose focus is to amend our current rules to allow licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed professional counselors to also provide supervision to social work associates. Those additional individuals would be licensed psychologists, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed professional counselors. The portion of HB4083 that addresses supervision is unnecessary at best. It does not acknowledge or honor the work the board is already doing in this area. I believe that performative language and legislation/rules do not serve the people of Oregon. Oversight of social workers should be left to social workers, especially since we have a long documented history of responsible, ethical actions in this regard. Although this portion of the bill is likely well intentioned it simply is an overstep. 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.