

Submitter: Alisa Vanderzalm  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

Hello,

I am writing in opposition of HB 4083.

I have a Masters of Social Work. An MSW is a very different degree from a Masters in Counseling or a Masters in Marriage and Family Counseling. And as such, it warrants different accreditation.

Someone with an MSW may be a case manager at DHS or a hospital social worker. They may run a program or write policy. They may be a community organizer or work at a shelter connecting people to resources. All of these are different roles from individual counseling. To assume all MSWs are therapists would be to ignore the very things that make a social worker a social worker. It's a broad degree that allows us to navigate within societies. It helps us effect change in ways that can be big or small.

An MSW is not a counseling degree. As a result, it can't be lumped in the same category as a counseling degree. To do so would be to take away the macro and community focus that makes an MSW degree what it is.

Alisa