

Submitter: Kaseja Wilder
On Behalf Of: Kaseja Wilder LLC
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

Submitter: Kaseja Wilder LCSW; Kaseja Wilder LLC

Re: HB 4083 Requiring the Oregon Health Authority adopt a uniform process for credentialing organizational behavioral health providers and establish a centralized portal for processing applications.

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health,

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Oregon. While I can see that this bill is an attempt to streamline the processes for credentialing, I am writing to oppose HB 4083 which would merge different regulatory bodies for credentials and licensures under a single board. Social Workers, Psychologists, Marriage and Family therapists, and Licensed professional counselors have similarities, but these diverse professions also carry significantly different perspectives to the work. Social workers are trained to take into account person in environment, and the ways that different constituencies interact with our culture. We are trained supports marginalized individuals and communities. This approach is actually very different from licensed professional counselors and marriage and family counselors. Requiring social workers to have psychiatrists or psychologists as supervisors risks social workers losing some of the focus on our ethics and integrity to our profession. This does not support the unique and beautiful approaches that social workers enact to mitigate the ways that capitalism and colonialism have devastated our ability to see the shared humanity in all. This bill, if passed, would make the credentialing process much longer and less direct, thereby compromising the ability for social workers to be out in the field doing their work necessary as quickly as possible.

Have you noticed that almost every single social worker that has filed testimony is opposed to this bill? At minimum, this should give us all pause! Do not pass this bill! Instead, go back to the drawing board to address the problems that this bill is hoping to address. Let's not make this more complicated than necessary! Please support social workers in not passing Re: HB 4083.S

In gratitude,

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