

Submitter: Lacey Faughender
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

Hello,

I am writing today because due to the limited notice about this hearing I am not able to attend and speak in opposition of this bill. I attended the most recent social work board meeting where this bill was also discussed and do not understand with the opposition that was expressed why this bill is moving forward. I specifically am in opposition of our Social Work board being consolidated. I have been a social worker since 2014 and licensed since 2017. After working in community mental health, a medical clinic, the prison system, and now owning my own private practice I do not believe this bill will actually support us but rather will limit our voice. As a small business owner of a private practice I am drowning in billing issues and bureaucratic barriers to getting payment and providing services to our community members. The help I need is not anything proposed in this bill and I can help but feel left behind because space for voices like mine has not been made in the consideration of this bill. Currently, with the state of the world it is very hard to be a social worker and hold hope for those we work with when we share some of the same worries and fears. The support we need is not a consolidation of our board but rather increase of resources for our board to support providers on the ground floor, free/ low cost trainings that help us better serve the community, and community building with providers. There has been limited communication around the bill and I feel again abandoned by the committee that is supposedly formed to help mental health services/ delivery/ providers. I fear that to those not in the field the components of this bill sound good and they do not fully understand the implications because they do not have to live them. I am asking that this bill be tabled or adjusted to better reflect what social workers in the field are actually wanting instead of taking out voice away. Those in the field understand without the above our right to self determination is being thwarted. If given more warning and notice I would be happy to speak in further detail about the issue and possible solutions. Today I am unable to personally show up due to the limited notice, the financial burden, and the issues it would cause for those whose appointments would have to be cancelled to attend. I am asking again to have this bill paused until all voices can be heard.

Thank you for the time and space to voice my opinion,
Lacey Faughender, LCSW