

Submitter: Jes Dimas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

Hello,

I'd like to thank the Governor of Oregon, the First Lady of the Governor of Oregon, the state legislators, and the members of the committee who were responsible for putting forth the recommendations regarding HB 4083.

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker both educated and practicing in Oregon, I am gravely concerned about how hastily the general public and members under the governance of the Board of Licensed Social Workers were notified of this intent to consolidate with the OBLPCT and Board of Psychologist under the unified MHRA. While I wholly support a centralized system of credentialing, I don't believe that this should be done without a more intentional and thoughtful process that includes more meaningful participation by the BLSW and its licensees. In states like Washington, Colorado, and California, we have publicly seen how disastrous centralizing non-congruent disciplines into one centralized Behavioral Health Board has been in terms of further extending long waits to licensure for practitioners, as well as further delays for members of the public to access care. Washington state, alone, admits to having months of backlog in processing applications -- even licensure renewals. I urge the legislature to please reconsider passing this bill so that more time can be used to coordinate with stakeholders in adopting a centralized that can work for everyone -- citizens and practitioners.