

Submitter: Caroline Bleckmann

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

I am an LCSW currently working in public schools. This is my professional opinion as a LCSW, and does not reflect that of my workplace. I am submitting this testimony during my duty-free lunch period. This measure came at a big surprise to many of my colleagues, and at the recent zoom call where it was presented, many of us remain confused and concerned about what this will mean. My biggest concern right now is that we are not interchangeable with our esteemed colleagues who are LPCs. I have worked in settings where supervisors were PsyDs and LPCs. I learned a lot from them, but they do not use a Social Work lens, which is uniquely suited to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

For example, said supervisors relied primarily on a medical model, where "diagnosis drives treatment." There was never harm intended; however, it is a reductionistic and leaves out a social justice and person-in-environment perspective. I work with people from all over the world, with diverse understandings of what mental health actually is, as well as what supports it. Our clients are often the exception to the successes of "evidence based treatment." If I came at my work from the perspective of the medical model it would be a disservice.

Unless it's clear that Social Workers will continue to only be supervised by Social Workers, I am against this bill.