

My name is Fayanna Johnson, and I am a social worker regulated by the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW). I am writing today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4083 in its current form.

While I appreciate the legislature's goal of streamlining the behavioral health workforce and reducing barriers to care, I am deeply concerned that HB 4083, as written, will inadvertently increase the administrative burden on practitioners and undermine the professional integrity of the social work field.

Specifically, I wish to highlight one primary concern concerning dual supervision and professional identity. HB 4083 seeks to expand supervision pathways by allowing providers to be supervised by licensees from different boards, such as the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (OBLPCT). I am specifically concerned that this could lead to a "dual supervision" requirement, where social workers are forced to seek supervision from both a social worker to maintain professional ethics and clinical standards, and a supervisor from a different board to satisfy new regulatory or "streamlined" credentialing requirements.

Social work is a distinct profession with a unique focus on social justice, systems theory, and person-in-environment frameworks. Diluting our supervision requirements or placing social workers under the oversight of boards that do not share our professional training risks eroding the quality of care provided to Oregon's most vulnerable populations. A social worker should be supervised by a social worker who is an expert in the specific ethical and clinical obligations of our license.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on HB 4083 or to amend the bill to ensure that the autonomy of the Board of Licensed Social Workers is protected and that cross-disciplinary supervision remains an option only when requested by the associate, rather than a mandated or structurally required burden.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the state of Oregon.