

Submitter: Susan Avila

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 4083 as it is currently written. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Oregon. Social workers are the only clinical mental health profession with ethical values explicitly mandating our involvement in social justice and equity initiatives. Our profession has some of the most stringent ethical parameters of the clinical professions, in no small part due to the fact that we engage with some of the most acutely ill, vulnerable populations. Mentorship within our field requires the oversight of experienced social workers who understand and value the uniqueness of our profession. Other professions cannot and should not be involved in social work supervision.

Oregon is in the midst of a mental health crisis. Our behavioral health workforce is not even remotely close to meeting the population's need. Polluting the social work supervisory relationship with the input of other professions (whose ethics and values are dramatically different) would be a disservice to the field. Not to mention the harm this would cause any social worker attempting to receive licensure out of the state; I am aware of no other jurisdiction with quality mental health services and a strong social work presence that allows social work supervision by other professions.

Please consider the damage this bill would do to my field's integrity. Please consider the negative ripple effect this legislation could have on a workforce already in crisis.