

Submitter: Krista Nelson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

In addition to my previous opposition, I have serious concerns about the recommendations originating from the Behavioral Health Council. The council appears to lack meaningful representation from actively practicing mental health clinicians, instead being largely composed of executives and academics. While these perspectives have value, they do not substitute for real-world, frontline experience with how regulatory and supervision changes affect clinical practice, workforce stability, and quality of care.

This body does not represent licensed social workers specifically, nor does it speak for MSWs as practitioners. It represents behavioral health broadly, and those distinctions matter. The pace at which this proposal has moved forward—despite an action plan submitted last month—suggests a rushed process with limited transparency and minimal engagement with the licensed professionals most directly impacted. Outreach to licensees appears to have occurred only on the day of this session, which does not reflect a good-faith effort to solicit informed input.

I am also deeply concerned by the Board of Social Workers providing notice of this session only hours in advance. That timeline effectively excludes meaningful participation and undermines trust in the process. It should be noted that many of those opposing this measure are not motivated by agency priorities or institutional interests, but by a commitment to professional standards, clinical integrity, and the long-term interests of MSWs and the clients they serve