

Submitter: Katie Kenney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

I'm writing as an LCSW serving children who have experienced trauma in rural Oregon. I strongly oppose this bill. Having been in the field for many years, I can see the stark differences in training between social workers, LPCs and LMFTs. It is imperative that these separate licenses maintain their own unique identity in order to inform clients as to the expertise of the professional serving them. As a suicidal worker, I have served my community in many capacities. My training as a social worker not only reflects my values, but it has also allowed me to serve my community with a wider skill set than just a therapist. Social workers view clients within their environments and work to create change that is vastly unique from other disciplines. I would simply not have the skillset I have today if I were trained by an LPC. On any given day, I may work as a therapist, or case manager, teacher, skills trainer, advocate or administrator. My training as a social worker has prepared me for all of these roles. If I am to hire staff in the future, it is imperative that their licensure informs me of the training they have completed. I would not hire an LPC to fulfill a role they have not been trained to complete. Hiring a social worker to perform a role as social worker who has not been mentored appropriately is simply dangerous and will cost lives. This bill can not pass.