

Submitter: Samuel Krulewitch
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

To whom it may concern,

My name is Samuel Krulewitch, LCSW. I am a therapist that works with youth in the criminal justice system, as well as other people. I have contracts with Multnomah County and OYA.

My primary concern about this bill is that it might force LCSWs to seek support from LPCs or LMFTs. Although we all serve the same contracts as licensed clinicians, we do approach therapy from different points of view. I question whether an LPC or an LMFT could provide the feedback that matches my training in graduate school. And vice versa.

I do understand the need to streamline the process and get more professionals in the field, but I am hoping that in doing so you don't force LCSWs to take supervision from professionals of a different value system and training background. I'm concerned for the makeup of this 'combined board,' who would have the power, or if it would be legitimately shared between professionals. As worded, it looks like LPCs would gain power over the licensure process of LCSWs. If I wanted to be an LPC, I would have gone to a different graduate program and received different training. It's wonderful that we can all practice together, but part of that harmony is the multiplicity of boards and supervisors and trainers between us. I respect LPCs, but would not be where I am today if I were trained and supervised by them. I'm concerned for the language of the bill which says that the BSLW would be absorbed by an agency run by other people. There's other licenses beyond the LCSW that the board supervises, which have even less to do with the work of LPCs. I've always appreciated the independence of the BLSW, and have a good working relationship with them.

I hope that in trying to create a solution for the problem we don't create another problem by - in function - eliminating the board by social workers, for social workers. Because I can't foresee the final outcome of this bill beurocratically I have selected "NEUTRAL" as my position, but I hope that these concerns are taken into account.

Best,

-Sam Krulewitch, LCSW L#11139