

Submitter: nicole Pantley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4083

Thank you Chair and members of the Legislature for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 4083.

During a meeting between the Governor's team and the Board of Licensed Social Workers, we were informed that the provisions transferring the Board of Licensed Social Workers' administrative authority to the Mental Health Regulatory Agency would be removed or amended. The current posted version of HB 4083 still includes Sections 11, 16, 17, and 18, which enact that administrative transfer. I am submitting this testimony, so the legislative record accurately reflects what was communicated to our board during that discussion.

I would like to state; I oppose the administrative transfer language contained in these sections. This portion of the bill represents a significant structural change that was not part of the understanding communicated to our board and would fundamentally alter the board's administrative independence. Independent licensing boards exist to protect the public. Centralizing administrative authority can dilute focus, slow investigative processes, and weaken the profession-specific oversight that safeguards clients and communities. My opposition is limited solely to that component of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony for the record.

Nicole Pantley, CADC-II, QMHA,CRM
Public Member of the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers