

Submitter: Jamie Tingley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or HB4083
Topic:

I am writing as a constituent and a social work student at Portland State University. I am a parent, and currently working toward becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). I hope to one day provide clinical supervision to future social workers, which is why HB 4083 is deeply important to me.

I am writing to respectfully ask you to oppose HB 4083.

I want to start by saying that I value interdisciplinary behavioral health care and respect the important work that psychologists, LPCs, and LMFTs do. However, this bill changes who can supervise clinical social workers in a way that I believe weakens professional training standards and could negatively impact client care.

Social work is trained through a unique framework that focuses on the person within their environment, social systems, social justice, and community and policy impacts on mental health. Supervision in social work is not only about clinical skills. It is also about mentoring new professionals within this specific professional lens and ethical framework. LCSWs are trained to supervise using this model because they have completed the same educational and licensing pathway.

I am concerned that expanding supervision authority to other professions removes the requirement that social workers be supervised by someone trained in the same professional framework. Other healthcare professions typically maintain supervision within their own discipline. For example, dentists are supervised and trained by other dental professionals who understand the full scope of dental education, licensing, and ethical standards. While other medical specialists have valuable expertise, they do not supervise dentistry because each profession has its own training structure and regulatory responsibilities.

Another concern I have is that this bill appears to give additional power to government and regulatory bodies to determine who is qualified to supervise social workers outside of the profession itself. I am not aware of other healthcare professional boards, including dentistry, that expand supervision authority in ways that allow other professions to oversee their clinical training requirements. Maintaining professional self-regulation helps ensure accountability, protects professional standards, and protects the public.

As someone planning to build a career in Oregon, I worry this bill could limit the integrity of social work training and reduce opportunities for experienced LCSWs to mentor future professionals. Strong, profession-specific supervision helps ensure that social workers are fully prepared to serve diverse communities and address complex social and behavioral health needs.

Please consider opposing HB 4083 or supporting amendments that maintain LCSW supervision requirements for clinical social workers.

Thank you for your time and for listening to the voices of constituents and future healthcare providers in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Jamie Tingley