

SB 193 Testimony

March 11, 2019

Health and Human Services

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Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr and Members of the Committee – Thank you for the opportunity to address your Committee today on behalf of the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). NASW-KS is the professional association working on behalf of the profession and practice of social work in Kansas. Social workers have been licensed at three levels of practice since 1976 - baccalaureate (LBSW), the master (LMSW), and the independent clinical social worker (LCSW).

Social workers are the largest provider of mental health services in Kansas. Licensed social workers provide more services than all the other licensed mental health care providers combined. While many social workers provide services in private practice settings, the majority of services are in community-based agencies, both public and private, such as schools, hospitals, clinics, and prisons.

Workforce Shortages of Social Workers in Rural Health Care, Mental Health, and Child Welfare Creates Barriers to Service Provision

Today Kansas is facing a shortage of trained mental health responders. Families and children in need are facing long waits to get treatment especially in rural Kansas. For teens in crisis who are contemplating suicide receiving timely supports and services can mean the difference between life and death.

The attached map demonstrates the severe shortage of social workers who are the number one provider of mental health services in western Kansas. SB 193 is a creative approach to addressing behavioral health workforce shortages.

Workforce Shortage Solution #1: Reciprocity Increases Workforce Recruitment and Retention

SB 193 would allow social workers who are licensed and in good standing in another state to become seamlessly licensed in Kansas. Behavioral health and child welfare providers will benefit with access to licensed professionals from border states and increased capacity to serve multiple state jurisdictions. Surveys report that young professionals see mobility and license portability across state lines as pivotal to their employment choices.

Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics reported that Kansas has a lower number of behavioral health care professionals per capita compared to the rest of the U.S.. The large numbers of retiring baby boomers are also compounding the workforce shortage. The 2018 Mental Health Taskforce reported on the shortages of social workers in behavioral health care especially in rural counties. The Child Welfare System Taskforce (2018 and 2019) recommended addressing workforce shortages of social workers in child welfare across Kansas.

Workforce Shortage Solution #2: *Remove Barriers in Post-Graduate Supervision Requirements to Put Kansas in Line with National Standards*

SB 193 as amended addresses the second piece in the puzzle toward resolving the Kansas workforce shortage. The high cost of time and money to complete post-graduate hours has resulted in an out-migration of social workers, especially to bordering states.

The amendment would bring Kansas **in line with the national average and create uniformity with the majority of states** that currently require 3000 hours of supervised work experience and 100 hours of direct supervisory meetings (Appendix A and B).

Through Senate Bill 193, the Kansas Legislature has the opportunity to increase citizens' access to mental health care by increasing access to appropriately trained licensed professionals.

The Kansas Chapter of NASW Supports Social Work Licensure Reciprocity and Senate Bill 193.

Chairwoman Landwehr, we encourage the Committee to advance SB 193 as passed and amended by the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

SB 193 with its amendment will encourage our Kansas social work students to practice in Kansas while increasing the State's ability to address the behavioral health treatment needs of children and families.

Appendix A: Comparisons of State Regulations

Post-Graduate Direct Supervisor Contact Hours
to achieve Clinical Social Work Licensure Level

No Equivalent Specifications	Less than 100 Hours	100 – 109 Hours	110-149 Hours	150 Hours	150+ Hours
Nebraska Illinois South Dakota	Alabama Colorado Indiana Louisiana Maine Michigan New Jersey New Mexico Vermont	Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Connecticut Delaware Florida Hawaii Idaho Massachusetts Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nevada New Hampshire New York North Carolina Oklahoma Oregon South Carolina Tennessee Texas Utah Virginia West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming	Iowa Maryland Washington Georgia	Kansas North Dakota Ohio Pennsylvania Rhode Island	Kentucky
3	9	28	4	5	1

Chart compiled from “Compare Licensing Requirement” - Association of Social Work Boards – ASWB.ORG

Appendix B: Comparisons of State Regulations

Post-Graduate Supervised Experience in with Clients
to achieve Clinical Social Work Licensure Level

	No Specifications	1000-2900 hours	3000-3,900 hours	4000-4,900 hours	5000+ hours
Alabama	24 months				
Alaska				4,000	
Arizona			3,200		
Arkansas				4,000	
California			3,000		
Colorado			3,360		
Connecticut			3,000		
Delaware			3,200		
Florida		1,500			
Georgia			3,000		
Hawaii			3,000		
Illinois		2,000			
Idaho			3,000		
Indiana	24 months				
Iowa	Not specified				
Kansas				4,000	
Kentucky			3,600		
Louisiana					5,760
Maine			3,200		*
Maryland			3,000		
Massachusetts			3,500		
Michigan				4,000	
Minnesota				4,000	
Mississippi	24 months				
Missouri			3,000		
Montana			3,000		
Nebraska			3,000		
Nevada			3,000		
New Hampshire			3,000		
New Jersey			3,000		
New Mexico			3,600		
New York		2,000			
North Carolina			3,000		
North Dakota			3,000		
Ohio			3,000		
Oklahoma				4,000	
Oregon			3,500		
Pennsylvania			3,000		
Rhode Island			3,000		
South Carolina			3,000		
South Dakota	2 years				
Tennessee			3,000		
Texas			3,000		
Utah				4,000	
Vermont			3,000		
Virginia			3,000		
Washington				4,000	
West Virginia				4,000	
Wisconsin			3,000		
Wyoming			3,000		
TOTALS	4	4	31	10	1

Chart compiled from "Compare Licensing Requirement" - Association of Social Work Boards – ASWB.ORG

