

SB 193 Testimony

February 21, 2019

Senate Public Health and Welfare

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Chairman Suellentrop 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 (LSCSW). 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.

Senate Bill 193 Resolves the Workforce Barrier of Licensure Reciprocity and Portability

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

SB 193 would allow social workers who are licensed and in good standing with no disciplinary record in another state to become seamlessly licensed in Kansas. Providers serving state-line communities will benefit with increased access to licensed professionals from border states to fill vacant positions and have an 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.

The 2018 Mental Health Taskforce reported on the shortages of behavioral health professions especially in rural/frontier counties. The Taskforce also documented difficulties with recruitment and retention of qualified professionals across the mental health continuum of care. Research by the Leonard 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. and shortages are particularly evident in rural areas. The large numbers of retiring baby boomers are also compounding the workforce shortage.

Workforce Shortage Solution #2: Supervision Requirements for the Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Work (LSCSW) Level of Licensure Exceed the National Average

While SB 193 is an important step, it does not address the second piece in the puzzle toward resolving the Kansas workforce shortage. Many Kansas master level social work graduates are electing to move to another state because clinical licensure requires an additional thousand post-graduate hours and fifty additional hours of supervision. The high cost of completing post-graduate hours has resulted in an out-migration of social workers, especially to bordering states. Kansas requires completing 4000 hours of post-graduate supervised work experience in a clinical setting and a minimum of 150 hours of supervision. As seen in Appendix A and B - the majority of states currently require 3000 hours of supervised work experience and 100 hours of direct supervisory meetings.

Behavioral Health Provider Shortage 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.

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

Mr. Chairman, we encourage the Committee to advance SB 193 with **additional revisions to KSA 65-6306 (D)** by amending post-graduate supervision hours to three thousand hours and direct supervision hours to one hundred hours.

These two additional changes 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.

KSA 65-6306.

(D) has completed as part of or in addition to the requirements of subsection (c) not less than two years of postgraduate supervised professional experience in accordance with a clinical supervision plan approved by the board of not less than 4,000 hours of supervised professional experience including at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact conducting psychotherapy and assessments with individuals, couples, families or groups and not less than 150 hours of clinical supervision, including not less than 75 hours of person-to-person individual supervision, integrating diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders with use of the American psychiatric association's diagnostic and statistical manual;

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 Clinical Setting
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

