

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a licensed independent social worker with a supervision designation who has been in the field since 2013. After almost ten years in social work providing treatment and care to children/families, as well as supervising new dependently licensed professionals I believe that the licensing standards of my profession matter. I want to express my opposition of proposed changes to social work licensing on HB 509 to include other fields of study as this would likely impact the trust of the public, as well as standards of care for the general population as there are social work specific education requirements that ensure ethical provision of services compared to other fields. I also have concerns that this bill would impact the interstate compact that is being developed for social workers as it would lower or not even be in compliance with other states. Furthermore adding in other fields of study would likely not even meet the standards of national accrediting body of social workers who conduct examinations for licensure. I am proud to be an Ohio social worker and I want my license to reflect the education/standards of my profession. I would ask the committee to adopt Senator Antonio's amendment to remove the section of the bill that allows related degrees to be licensed as a social worker.

Thanks for your time and attention,

Ashley Karimi, LISW-S