

Hello,

My name is Maria Naumoff and I am a Licensed Social Worker here in the state of Ohio. I obtained my bachelors at the University of Akron in 2010 and during that time, spent many days and hours within my internship in order to graduate and to obtain the required knowledge I needed to become a successful social worker. I obtained my LSW in 2016 and spent months studying for this exam. In 2018, I decided to go for my masters while working full time with two children. During this time, I spent over 900 hours at my practicum site. I am in the process of my supervision timeframe in order to get my LISW. All of this should tell you just how hard we work as social workers. No one other than someone with a social work degree should be able to obtain an LSW or LISW. As a social worker, we are licensed to diagnosis individuals. Not everyone should be able to do this without the proper schooling, practicum hours, and supervision hours. I strongly urge 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. This bill could also prevent Ohioans from entering the compact.

Thank you for taking the time to hear myself, and every other social worker that is fighting for this,

Maria