

Tuesday December 6th, 2022

The Ohio Workforce & Higher Education Committee

The Ohio Senate

Dear Workforce & Higher Education Committee Members:

My name is Kevin Drummond and I have been a licensed social worker in Ohio for nearly 30 years. I am proud to be called a social worker. I gained my bachelor's degree in social work from Ohio University and my master's degree in social work from the University of Kentucky. Social work is a field that is unique and has specific requirements to be able to call oneself a social worker. HB 509 has wording that would allow a non-social work degreed individual to become licensed as a social worker in Ohio. I feel this is short sighted and allows the opportunity to de-legitimize the profession and bring about other concerns as well. Back in the 90's, non-degreed individuals were allowed to be grandfathered into the field of social work, but with the advancement of the profession, this was discontinued. HB 509 will be a step backwards instead of a step forward, undoing years of hard work and legislation.

I oppose HB 509 as it is currently worded and support the amendment proposed by Senator Antonio.

I am more than happy to provide further conversation and dialogue as to the unintended consequences this may cause, including the likely prevention of Ohio being able to join the Interstate Licensure Compact.

Respectfully,

Kevin Drummond, LISW-S

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