

Opponent Testimony of HB 509

Hello there, my name is Kate Nemann and I am currently a social work student at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am writing on behalf of my program to protect the title of social work. As a student, I am currently learning very important skills and information that will be very useful to me when I am able to receive my license when I graduate. It is upsetting to hear that those who do not have a social work bachelors degree are able to still receive a social work license. As a student, I believe this bill discredits my program and the hard work my peers and I have put into our degrees. The social work title should not be given to someone who is not affluent in what it means to be a social worker and the practices of a social worker. The title and license of social worker should be earned and not simply given to anyone who wants the title. I as well would like to present the argument that how will clients and patients ever trust that a licensed social worker is truly someone who actually has a degree in social work. The title of social worker should not be taken lightly, as social workers are able to diagnose and assess mental health disorders under supervision. There is no telling the potential dangers of someone who isn't educated in the field, having a license and being able to diagnose and assess mental health disorders without any prior experience. I am very passionate about my future career field and I ask that our titles be protected. Allowing those without a social work education to become licensed is simply dangerous and discredits the time and effort my peers and I are putting into our education. Social work is a very important profession and deserves to be protected. Thank you for your time and behalf of my peers and I, I hope to see changes made.

Sincerely,

Kate Nemann