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December 5, 2022

**RE: Ohio HB 509**

Attachment: Workforce and Higher Education Committee Witness Form

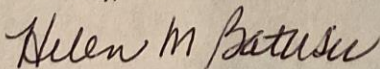
To Whom It May Concern in the Ohio House/Ohio Senate:

I am writing as a long-standing member of the *NASW (National Association of Social Workers)* in regard to the State of Ohio **House bill: HB 509**.

First, my perspective is as a person who has an undergraduate degree in psychology, a related field; secondly, as a MSW (Masters of Social Work) graduate; and lastly, as a retired adjunct professor for Social Work undergraduate and graduate degree seeking students. I am petitioning you, in the strongest sense of the word, to **remove the section of the bill that would allow related degrees to become a Licensed Social Worker**, for the following reasons:

- as an undergraduate with a degree in psychology, I would not have had the ethics, education, training, and (required) supervision to be a social worker, **even though my degree was in a related field;**
- as a fifty (50) year old graduate student with two practicums, one in a high school and the other in an agency. This writer learned through those supervised practicums along with the 60 hours of graduate classwork, what was **legal, appropriate, and necessary**. It then allowed me to sit for my state Licensed Social Work exam, and for my state Licensed Clinical Social Work exam, which I couldn't have done with an undergraduate degree in psychology! Once in the work force, this writer was able to supervise graduate students with one of their practicums. **Students without the Social Work education would not have been able to do the practicum work ethically, responsibly, and with appropriate boundaries for themselves and their client!**
- and most importantly, as an adjunct professor. **A person without the Social Work education, ethics, and training would put themselves and their clients at risk, which in essence, would be a liability to their place of employment and ultimately, to the State of Ohio!**

Sincerely,



Helen M. Batusic, MSW, LCSW

Grief Recovery Specialist