

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for reviewing my testimony. My name is Angela Fry. I am a licensed independent social worker and a social work educator. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

Ohio is facing a critical behavioral health workforce shortage. Many behavioral health positions are filled by social workers. To become a social worker, one must attend a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited college or university. Requiring programs to achieve and maintain competency in the areas of diversity, privilege, oppression, and intersectionality has been central to social work accreditation standards since 1952 (CSWE, 2022, para. 1). This bill would impact our profession and put us in direct opposition to our accrediting bodies and professional code of ethics. I believe this bill will reduce the number of people entering the profession thereby exacerbating the workforce shortage. The preamble to the National Association of Social Workers states, in part, "...Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice" (NASW, 2021). Addressing systemic inequalities is necessary to provide services to the people of Ohio.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my written testimony.

Sincerely,

*Angela Fry, MSW, LISW-S*

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References:

Council on Social Work Education. (2022). *2022 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Information*.

National Association of Social Workers. (2021). *Read the Code of Ethics*.

<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>