

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee, thank you for hearing our testimony today.

My name is Liam Strausbaugh and I am here today to express NASW Ohio's opposition to SB 1.

While as an individual, I can see many concerns with this piece of legislation, I think my time would be better served today simply reviewing the Council on Social Work Education policy and accreditation standards that SB 1 would completely destroy.

Educational Policy 1 once states that the purpose of social work is actualized through its quest for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice; the creation of conditions that facilitate the realization of human rights; the elimination of poverty; and the enhancement of life for all people. The values of social work are listed as "service, social justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, competence, human rights, and scientific inquiry are among the core values of social work. These values, along with an anti-racist and anti-oppressive perspective, underpin the explicit and implicit curriculum and frame the professions' commitment to respect all people". **Accreditation Standard 1** states that the program's mission statement must be consistent with the program's context and the profession's purpose and values.

Educational Policy 2 states that "social work programs integrate anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (A DEI) approaches across the curriculum. Programs provide the context through which students learn about their positionality, power, privilege, and difference and develop a commitment to dismantling systems of oppression, such as racism, that affect diverse populations. Programs recognize the pervasive impact of White supremacy and privilege and prepare students to have the knowledge, awareness, and skills necessary to engage in anti-racist practice. The dimensions of diversity, equity, and inclusion are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, caste, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, generational status, immigration status, legal status, marital status, political ideology, race, nationality, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Faculty and administrators model anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice and respect for diversity and difference. Faculty and administrators also foster an equitable and inclusive learning environment by facilitating important A DEI discourse. The program's commitment to A DEI is reflected in its explicit and implicit curriculum." **Accreditation Standard 2** requires that the program engage in specific and continuous efforts within the implicit and explicit curriculum related to anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion while also providing examples of its specific efforts.

Accreditation Standard 4 requires that "the program's admissions policies are equitable and inclusive, with particular attention to underrepresented as well as historically and currently oppressed groups"

Accreditation Standard 5 requires that “the program has a systematic plan to assess anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within the programs’ implicit curriculum, with a particular focus on the program’s efforts to foster ADEI in the student learning environment”.

A link to the full accreditation standards can be found at the end of my written testimony.

Chair Roegner, as an individual who put in a lot of hard work and advocacy to ensure that Ohio social workers were able to be one of the first states to enact in the national social work compact legislation, I do not see how you could support or move forward legislation that actively dismantles social work accreditation standards and policies and removes Ohio’s progress of strengthening the Ohio behavioral health workforce.

I ask that you vote no on SB 1.
Thank you.

PDF of standards: [https://www.cswe.org/getmedia/bb5d8afe-7680-42dc-a332-a6e6103f4998/2022-Educational-Policy-and-Accreditation-Standards-\(EPAS\).pdf](https://www.cswe.org/getmedia/bb5d8afe-7680-42dc-a332-a6e6103f4998/2022-Educational-Policy-and-Accreditation-Standards-(EPAS).pdf)

Link from website to access PDF: <https://www.cswe.org/accreditation/policies-process/2022epas/>