December 5, 2022

Dear Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

I am a licensed professional social worker in the State of Ohio. I proudly share that I am a licensed professional social worker and verify that I am in good standing with the CSWMFT Board as an LISW-S, which stands for Licensed Independent Social Worker with a Supervision Designation.

I attended a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited four year undergraduate program at Mercyhurst University in Social Work with some of the most impactful social work professors in the field; continued on to receive a Master's Degree via Advanced Standing at CWRU's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences where I had a field placement of significance in the field of social work that impacts my work still.

Every step I took in my education was intentionally designed so that I could receive the unique and essential training to become a social worker. I did not want to be a counselor or a psychologist. I wanted to be a Social Worker. I could not imagine arriving in this profession without the training and postgraduate continuing education with supervised licensure advancement. Adopting this bill without Senator Antonio's amendment would put my efforts, licensure, the profession of social work and more modern state and community interests at risk.

I am requesting that you adopt Senator Antonio's amendment to remove the section of the bill that allows related degrees to be licensed as a social worker. I maintain our profession's Ethics and Values in evaluating this bill. First and foremost, there is wide sweeping negative consequence potential for our clients and communities. In addition, this bill most likely would reduce Ohio's chances of becoming a part of the interstate compact, reducing licensed working Ohians a chance to enter license portability and in effect help more people.

Social workers are uniquely trained and as such, highly qualified and essential. We appreciate your support to adopt Senator Antonio's amendment. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Anthony, MSSA LISW-S