

The Ohio Senate  
Workforce & Higher Education Committee  
Re: HB 509, line 12858 regarding social work title protection

I am writing as an LISW in the state of Ohio. I have been licensed here for five years and serve as a community and school based therapist.

I wish to express strong opposition to the changes made in line 12858 of HB 509 and ask that you support Senator Antonio's amendment to the bill protecting title and practice protection for social workers in Ohio. The addition of "another field acceptable to the board" waters down what it means to be a social worker in Ohio and I believe will increase the difficulty of transferring or holding licenses in multiple states as well as inhibit participation in Interstate Licensure Compact.

The education and experience social workers bring to the critical work we do should not be devalued by allowing our practice and titles to be given to others who have not been appropriately trained.

I appreciate your attention to this critical issue and urge you to protect social workers in Ohio.

Sincerely,  
Karissa Brenneman, LISW