

Testimony for Saba Muzib LLMSW in Support of Social Work Modernization Act

11/7/2023

Greetings, my name is Saba Muzib I live in Harper Woods, Michigan and I work as a Waiver Case Manager for Molina Healthcare. I have been working as a Case Manager for 5 years. I fully support HB 5184 and 5185, Social Work Licensure Modernization Act.

I graduated with my Master's in Social Work in 2017 and graduated at the top of my class. Social work has always been a passion of mine and I decided to further my education in order help others and lead a fulfilling career. I took my exam 2 times, and I am scheduled to take it again for the 3rd time towards the end of this month. Each time I took the exam it was different, and after missing it by several points, it is difficult to know what to study for since you do not know which questions you missed therefore, you are stuck in a frustrating vicious cycle. My colleagues who also graduated at the top of their class have also faced challenges in passing the exam which has caused them to leave their jobs and profession. What I have learned working in this field is that it takes a patient, dedicated, empathetic and compassionate individual to be able to work with vulnerable at-risk populations. I have seen firsthand in my field the passion and dedication that social workers have when working with their clients and the impact they can have on their clients lives. We help our clients navigate healthcare systems, social service systems, court systems, help them stay in their homes and provide them with access to quality care. In some cases, we are listening ear to someone who has not felt seen or heard their entire lives and is on the brink of committing suicide. Therefore, creating additional barriers to an already challenging field will only create workforce shortages and increase in mental health conditions worldwide. According to the World Mental Health Report published by the World Health Organization in 2022, mental health conditions are increasing worldwide due to demographic changes and there has been a 13% increase in mental health conditions and substance use disorders in the last decade. The article further discusses the huge gap between people needing care and those with access to care.

This exam should not dictate whether a social worker will be competent in their field. After years of pursuing a degree and completing supervision hours in addition to continuous agency/staff training, social workers should be able to practice in their field without any additional barriers. I have spent over \$2000 in the last year on exam fees, tutoring, study materials and study groups which has led to emotional and financial distress especially as a single parent.

I urge you to vote in favor of 5184 and 5185, Social Work Licensure Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to hear my story.

Sincerely,
Saba Muzib LLMSW