

SB871 and SB 872 Testimony

As a student pursuing a masters in social work and potentially various licenses, I am here today to urge you to support Senate Bills 871 and 872. The obvious disparities visible in the pass rate data contradict everything the social work profession stands for. The knowledge I've gained surrounding the ethical responsibilities of a social worker does not align with the disregard for equitable treatment as it relates to the workers experience. From the perspective of someone who works with the Department of social services in foster care, clients need workers who know and understand their experiences. My first day on the job I inquired about the process of licensing and I'll tell you what my supervisors and their supervisors told me: You can take the exam and pass, but you will have to take it as if you're not yourself. They informed me that I would have to adopt the perspective of someone who wasn't aware of our clients' realities to be recognized as a licensed social worker. While the turnover continues to increase, the amount of regulated workers continues to fall. Allowing qualified social workers to enter and advance practice, while the State develops an alternative practice-based assessment for licensing helps to mitigate the impacts of discriminatory regulations on not only workers, but clients who have been deprived of competent care. Thank you.