

Jalicia Brown- LCSW-C #14024

My name is Jalicia Brown. I am. Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical. **I OPPOSE this bill because removal of a minimal level of competency lowers professional standards.** I worked hard to obtain my clinical license after graduating from the University of Maryland School of Social Work with a Master of Social Work degree in 2008. I remember being in class talking to my peers about taking the, at the time, LGSW exam and we were so excited to become licensed social workers understanding that we had more work and supervision to complete before we could sit for the LCSW-C. As soon as I had enough supervision and work hours to submit my paperwork, I did so. I worked with my clinical supervisor and bought testing materials to prepare for the exam. When I passed, I had tears of joy in my eyes. I reflected on all the hours of hard work and late night studying to get me to this point. I obtained my first clinical job later in 2011 and when they asked for a copy of my license, I was SO proud to make a copy of my license for them. I still have my original license framed in my office space. I am proud to be a LICENSED social worker. To take these very important competency tests away would not only effect the pay of current and future licensed social workers it would also allow for non-licensed social workers to practice social work and potentially cause undue harm to their future clients. It would DUMB down my profession. A profession that I love so very much and worked my butt off to obtain! Please do not remove the competency tests. The negative impact it will have on my field would be catastrophic and will have long lasting irreversible effects on us all.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Jalicia A Brown, LCSW-C #14024