

## **Proponent In-Person Testimony HB2340**

### **Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare**

**March 20<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer McCabe; I am a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today in support of House Bill 2340 as amended in the House. I have practiced social work in the state of Kansas for the past 15 years.

The current process places an unnecessary burden on the applicant while not providing any additional safeguards to ensure professional competence.

The process is particularly burdensome for applicants who moved to Kansas from another state. I received my master's degree in social work from San Diego State University and began my social work career in California. In this state, supervision is routinely provided by employers, free of charge and as part of our work week. When I moved to Kansas I began the process to become licensed in this state. It took the board **seven months** to determine how many hours of supervision from California would be accepted towards Kansas licensure. Most of the delays were due to the board's not responding to multiple attempts to communicate or losing the attestations from my supervisors. I paid for additional hours of supervision in KS as many of my previous hours were not counted as they were completed either 1 year outside of the timeframe or with 1 too many group attendees.

Even though I graduated from an accredited University with a clinical focus 8 years prior, I was required to submit syllabi from my graduate courses to show my coursework covered advanced clinical interventions. Because I did not keep all my syllabi, this involved contacting professors—some who were no longer working for the University—to request a copy. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is our national accrediting body that determines if coursework meets clinical standards. **If a school has CSWE accreditation, the state boards should accept this as meeting the professional standard. I fully support reducing the additional/specific hours of coursework requirement from 15 hours to 3.**

Kansas needs competent clinical social workers. We entered this profession to be of service to the community and protect vulnerable populations. The current Kansas statutes discourage social workers from pursuing licensure, leading to less qualified professionals meeting the demands of consumers at a time when quality behavioral health care is in high demand. I respectfully ask the Chair and Committee to pass the Bill, as amended in the House.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McCabe, LCSW