

Kansas Chapter
National Association of Social Workers
...advocating for the practice and profession of Social Work...

Proponent Testimony: SB 449

March 10, 2016

House Health and Human Services

Presented by Cynthia Schendel, LSCSW

Good afternoon. My name is Cynthia Schendel. I am the President of the Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers.

I am a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker (LSCSW). For over thirty years, I have been providing services to children and families in the Kansas City area. Through my career, I have also offered my services as a clinical supervisor to help newer social workers advance their career.

Social workers have been licensed to practice at three levels of expertise since 1974. The Social Work Practice Act has stood the test of time and has helped to protect the public from unscrupulous practitioners through the intervention by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB). KNASW supports the licensure and regulation of social workers.

SB 449 makes some significant changes to the Social Work Practice Act. Some of the changes are welcome, some are accepted, and some were opposed.

After two amendments on the Senate side, KNASW can stand in support of SB 449.

1. KNASW asked that social workers be removed from a mandate of “board-approved clinical supervisor.” This new mandate would have resulted in additional recurring costs and a depletion of those willing to offer this necessary service. The mandate was unfair because the BSRB did not impose the requirement on all of the disciplines it licenses and regulates.
2. The second amendment had to do with strengthening public protection. We asked that, instead of a simple majority, it would take 2/3 majority vote of the BSRB Board of Directors to approve an applicant for licensure who has a felony conviction.

In closing, on behalf of the social work profession and the people we serve, KNASW is proud of the over 6000 social workers licensed and working to improve the lives of others all across Kansas.

Thank you and I will stand for questions.

Contact information

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