

November 6, 2023

Testimony of LaTrice Hughes, LLMSW Supporting the Social Work Licensure Modernization Act

I'm writing to show my support and voice my affirmation of the proposed House Bills 5184 and 5185 Social Work Licensure Modernization Act. I'm one of many master's level social workers who has attempted the clinical exam to obtain a full license and have not been successful due to many reasons out of my control. The exam is racially biased and highly flawed according to the NASW-Michigan's Statement on the Release of the 2022 ASWB Exam Pass Rate Analysis Report dated 8/9/2022.

I've attempted the exam seven times, paid for multiple study guides and prep courses. I have ten years of social work experience working in long term care, short term care, hospice care and case management. I've completed my undergraduate and graduate degree both in social work and now I will no longer be able to work in the field of social work due to an exam that isn't based on real life situations with people with real life issues. This exam has forced a lot of clinicians to leave the field, loose their employment and overall put a strain on the people we serve due to an exam that's flawed. This exam doesn't define me or my competency as a social worker, but it's a barrier to the field especially for those who have been successfully practicing in the field. I ask that this exam be removed and allow those who have completed their 4,000 hours of supervision be granted their full license as licensed clinical social workers.

Sincerely,  
LaTrice Hughes, LLMSW