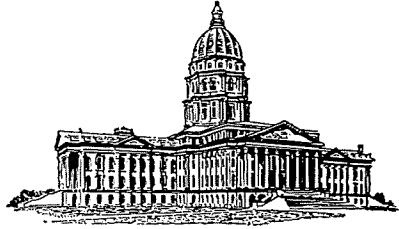


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**BARB WASINGER**  
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Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the chance to speak for this bill.

House Bill 2375 is a fairly simple bill that amends KSA 2022 Supp. 65-6306 to allow for online students to be able to apply for licensure with the Behavioral Services Regulatory Board (BSRB). Currently the standard is that instruction must be in-person to be allowed to apply for a social work license. Given that COVID has changed most every aspect of our lives it is disheartening to see that online students are not included.

In particular, the bill mentions that this shall apply to, but not be limited to the online masters of social work program at the university of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas and also shall apply to, but not be limited to, the online baccalaureate social work program at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas.

This is not the first time that the BSRB has denied licenses to graduates of social work programs. Last year I worked to make sure the graduates of Fort Hays State University's Masters of Social Work could apply for licenses to be able to work despite the efforts of the BSRB to block them. This year it is University of St. Mary and the bottom line is because they don't want to allow online students to apply for licensure.

It is time to make sure that the BSRB works to help our state get more social workers that are desperately needed in Kansas.

Thank you.