



FRESENIUS MEDICAL CARE

March 15, 2023

RE: HB 2340 – Support with House Amendments – Written Only Testimony

Dear Chair Gossage and Members of the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

Fresenius Medical Care cares for 1,184 Kansans with kidney failure in 26 outpatient dialysis clinics throughout the state. Each dialysis patient has access to social work services through a licensed Masters level social worker, which is mandated by federal CMS regulations for End Stage Renal Disease facilities.

Some of our LMSWs decide to pursue their clinical LCSW license. We are pleased to see the amendment that removed what would have been a new requirement proposed in HB 2340 that a master's level social worker seeking supervision for a clinical license would be limited to only BSRB "Board-Approved Supervisors." We believe the number of supervisors would have decreased with this requirement, making it more difficult for LMSWs to find supervision in their local geographical areas, especially in rural areas. Kansas already has a lower percentage of clinical social workers than our neighboring states.

We also support the amendment that reduced the 15-hour requirement that is **above and beyond** graduating from accredited master level graduate program for a specialist clinical social worker to three hours in psychopathology. This standard is not required by states across the nation. And we support diagnostic impressions as a type of professional experience for a practicum for specialist clinical social workers.

We support the removal of the requirement for diversity, equity and inclusion continuing education. The social work profession is grounded in values of respecting the individuality and uniqueness of each person; therefore, we do not see the need to specify more continuing education in this particular area. There are ample opportunities for social workers to pursue continuing education in this area if they desire more training.

We do request that clinical social workers who reside outside of Kansas would be able to practice via the reciprocal license provision after 12 months instead of after the current 36 months. This would allow more clinical social workers to practice in Kansas. Ultimately, we hope Kansas will adopt a social worker licensure compact.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

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