



Kansas Counseling Association
Andrew Secor, Legislative and Advocacy Chair
In Support of SB 238

The Kansas Counseling Association (KCA) represents counselors across the State of Kansas serving in a variety of capacities, including professional counseling, school counseling, and marriage, couple, and family counseling. As such, our profession is regulated by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB).

Clinical training is paramount to working as a competent independent practitioner. The required training hours along with the supervised experience provide the opportunity for novice counselors to grow in their awareness of counseling/therapy skills to provide competent care. While Kansas has some of the most stringent post-graduate training requirements in the country for professional counselors, a reduction in the number of hours, as indicated in SB 238, would keep Kansas on par with a majority of states in the country. The reduction of hours would be a welcome change for many novice counselors who spend years working toward their clinical license while paying a substantial fee for supervision. Lessening the burden on those taking the extra steps to secure a higher level of training could encourage more counselors to enter the clinical realm of practice. As such, we are supportive of the change to the required clinical experience and supervision hours in SB 238.

We are also supportive of the increase in time provided for a temporary license. This change brings professional counseling into alignment with the other professions regulated by the BSRB. Extending the temporary license to 12 months gives professional counselors the ability to apply for, study, and take the exam without the pressure of completing all aspects of the exam and licensing process in six months.

We are supportive of the language related to allowing the BSRB to refuse licensure to any person who refuses or refused to comply with a lawful order of the board. Professional counselors are to hold themselves to a high standard of practice. The BSRB, to protect the public, must have the ability to hold licensees accountable for refusing to comply with a lawful order.

The KCA recognizes the important role of supervision and accountability in the practice of professional counseling. Based on the information presented in SB 238, the KCA supports the changes to the supervised post-graduate experience, the temporary license, and the ability of the BSRB to hold licensees accountable for their actions. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

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Nick Brummet
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