



Representative Tina Liebling, Chair
Health & Human Service Conference Committee
March 7, 2022

Chair Liebling and Health Finance and Policy Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW - MN) and the MN Coalition of Licensed Social Workers (Coalition of Social Workers), we are writing in support of House File 2743, and in particular, Sections 4,5, 6 and 7, modifying supervision requirements for social workers.

NASW - MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state, representing nearly 2000 social workers. The Coalition of Social Workers unifies membership organizations for licensed social workers. Collectively, our organizations offer experience and expertise in supporting social workers as they strive toward completing licensing requirements that promote professional standards within our field. We support HF2743 as a practical modification that will help social workers fulfill supervision expectations.

This bill will expand social work licensing supervision requirements to include the option of 100% electronic means. While the past two years have demonstrated obvious conveniences to electronic meetings, we know this will eliminate numerous barriers beyond health emergencies. Because there are a limited number of qualified social work supervisors in Greater MN, social workers in these areas currently drive great distances to meet the in-person meeting requirements. Furthermore, new social workers should have the option to choose a supervisor that is a good professional and personal match and yet, with current requirements, geographic location is often the primary consideration. Lastly, allowing this flexibility for supervisors will be helpful as they balance their professional demands and their desire to support new social workers entering the field.

Ultimately, NASW-MN and the Coalition of Social Workers believes expanding electronic options will make supervision more accessible to gain the credentials they need. This is an important step to growing the social work professional workforce.

Please support HF2743. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Karen E. Goodenough in black ink.

Karen E. Goodenough, PhD, LGSW
Executive Director
NASW-MN

Handwritten signature of Karen A. Frees, MSSW, LICSW in black ink.

Karen Frees, MSSW, LICSW
Chair
Coalition of Social Workers

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Arneson in black ink.

Jenny Arneson, MSW, LGSW
Legislative Consultant
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