

KEEVA HARTLEY-STOUFFER

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Written testimony of Keeva Hartley-Stouffer, MSW

Representative Liebling, Representative Bierman, and Respected Members of the House Committee on Health Finance and Policy:

My name is Keeva Hartley-Stouffer, MSW. I am writing to oppose HF 3626.

I hold an independent clinical social work license in Minnesota and certificates in child abuse prevention studies and clinical supervision. I am also a licensing supervisor. My areas of expertise include trauma, play therapy, attachment disorders, and domestic violence. I have a special interest in working with Black/African American women experiencing chronic PTSD stemming from the trauma of daily encounters with systemic racism and sexism.

I trained as a question writer for the social work licensing exams in 2007, was selected as a member of the Clinical exam committee, and served as the committee's co-chair in 2012 and 2013. Since 2020, I have worked as an exam development consultant for the Masters exam and now for the Clinical exam. I work with writers and Examination Committee members to ensure that every question is critical to practice, follows the content outlines developed through an analysis of social work practice, has an accurate and up-to-date reference from a respected source, and is free of microaggressions. I also facilitate forums about microaggressions.

As someone with long involvement in the exam development program, I can attest that the processes that the Association of Social Work Boards follows in guarding against bias and ensuring competence are robust. Every detail of each question is vetted multiple times as it progresses from being written by a trained, practicing social worker who is part of a diverse group, through revision with the help of a consultant, review by the Examination Committee, psychometric analysis in the pretest phase, and sensitivity review by editors. I know that exam content is developed through an analysis of the practice of social work that is conducted regularly to ensure currency and relevance. I am confident that no corners are cut in adhering to testing standards to produce valid, reliable, and fair assessments of social work competence.

As a direct service provider with more than two decades of clinical practice experience, I am concerned about the potential for unintended results of removing the exam requirement. In my daily work, I am responsible for important decisions that affect the safety and well-being of the clients I serve. I value the competence I earned through my

education and demonstrated when I passed the licensing examination. In addition, I am concerned that a change in exam requirements might result in a loss of professional status, especially for independent clinical practitioners like me whose income and insurance reimbursements may be affected.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me the opportunity to submit this written testimony in opposition to HF 3626.

Sincerely,

Keeva Hartley MSW, LICSW

(she / her / hers)

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)

EMDR Trained Provider

Certified Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Provider (CPATP)

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