



July 2025

Chair Jo Comerford  
Joint Committee on Higher Education

Chair Dave Rogers  
Joint Committee on Higher Education

***Via email:*** [Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov](mailto:Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov); [Dave.Rogers@mahouse.gov](mailto:Dave.Rogers@mahouse.gov)

Dear Chair Comerford, Chair Rogers, and Committee members,

The Children's League of Massachusetts (CLM) is a statewide, non-profit organization comprised of children and family services providers and advocates. Together with our members, we urge you to report favorably "**An Act Relative to Social Work Uplifting Practices and Exam Removal (the SUPER Act)**" ([S.218](#) / [H.1423](#)).

**We are advocating for the passage of the SUPER Act to support our members in countering the social services workforce crisis.** Without first-line treatment and resources, those in need of care face traumatic family separations, judicial involvement, and longer-term placements in higher-acuity, more costly child welfare and/or healthcare settings they would not otherwise require. Increased risk of neglect, abuse, homelessness, unemployment, and other extreme consequences are also on the line. We must support adequate staffing at mental health treatment and other social service providers across the state so that individuals can receive the services they need at the right time and place. Decreasing barriers to access behavioral healthcare is critical to ensuring child welfare providers and the state's healthcare system can all sustain their appropriate care across the continuum of care.

Highlights of the bill include:

- **Removing the standardized test at the LCSW level** that Master's level social workers are already required to take after completing their Master's Degree.
- Allowing Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers (LICSWs) to **earn continuing education credits** for supervising Licensed Certified Social Workers (LCSWs), MSWs, and BSWs.
- **Codify a stipend grant program for master's social work students.**

**Investing in social work education helps combat the workforce crisis.** Many social work students take on considerable debt, contribute hundreds of hours of unpaid internship work, and face low wages and poor working conditions in the field. Paid field placement stipends would enable more people to enter and move through the social work pipeline, including those who cannot afford not to work while attending school, and those already working in the field at lower levels, who are looking to move up the career ladder.

**The LCSW exam is unnecessary and removing it would dramatically increase the number of qualified social workers providing care.** Social workers graduate from CSWE accredited Master's programs, advance through practicums, receive professional references, and apply through the state of Massachusetts, and this should hold more weight than an exam that is not a proven measure of competency or consumer protection. In the year following Rhode Island's exam removal law, the field saw a 160% increase in new qualified Master's level social workers, and the state has since



extended the provision to remove the exam for entry master's level social workers.

**This bill also supports Massachusetts in improving equity and racial justice.** The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) released data in 2022 showing the Master's level exam is more of a burden for those who are Black, are older test takers, and social workers for whom English is their second language. Racial disparities in licensure rates are unjust for both social workers and the people we work with in our communities, who deserve care that is delivered in their native language and by individuals who reflect and understand their racial and cultural background.

We urge the committee to report this legislation favorably and to move it swiftly towards passage.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gwaltney  
Executive Director  
Children's League of Massachusetts