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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Currently, Illinois suffers from a significant
3 shortage of mental health professionals, particularly licensed
4 clinical social workers; and

5 WHEREAS, According to a recent disclosure by the
6 Association of Social Work Boards, there are significant test
7 pass disparities and biases against older test takers, test
8 takers with disabilities, and minority test takers; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois has a vested interest in ensuring that
10 it addresses the critical workforce issues facing the state
11 with a diverse workforce that reflects the clients it serves;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Social Work
16 Alternative Licensure Path and Barriers to Access Task Force
17 is created to study the following:

- 18 (1) The effectiveness and impact of an alternative
19 process to the social work clinical licensure examination;
20 (2) Alternatives to examination and their impact on
21 social worker licensure in Illinois;
22 (3) Current licensure supervision and recommendations

1 for improving licensure supervision as well as barriers to
2 obtaining supervision;

3 (4) Any barriers to licensure and diversity of the
4 social work population and recommended changes;

5 (5) Methods for eliminating bias and improving the
6 fairness, diversity, and efficiency of the licensing
7 process for social workers in the State; and

8 (6) Funding sources to address barriers to access and
9 diversity in the field of social work in Illinois; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the
12 following members with no affiliation to the Association of
13 Social Work Boards:

14 (1) One member of the majority party of the Senate who
15 shall serve as the Chair, appointed by the President of
16 the Senate;

17 (2) One member of the minority party of the Senate,
18 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

19 (3) One member of the majority party in the House,
20 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

21 (4) One member of the minority party of the House,
22 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House;

23 (5) The Secretary of Illinois Department of Financial
24 And Professional Regulation (IDFPR) or his or her
25 designee;

1 (6) The Director of the Department of Children and
2 Family Services (DCFS) or his or her designee;

3 (7) The Chair of the Social Work Examining and
4 Disciplinary Board or his or her designee;

5 (8) One individual who is a licensed social worker in
6 the State who graduated from an accredited social work
7 master's program more than 15 years ago, appointed by the
8 Director of IDFPR;

9 (9) Two Deans of Social Work from accredited social
10 work master's programs serving the State, one of whom
11 shall be from a college or university serving a majority
12 of minority social work students, appointed by the
13 Director of IDFPR;

14 (10) Two individuals who received a master's degree in
15 social work within the immediately preceding 10 years and
16 who have been negatively impacted by the examination
17 requirement for licensure, appointed by the Director of
18 IDFPR;

19 (11) One individual who is a student studying to
20 receive their master's degree in social work, appointed by
21 the Director of IDFPR;

22 (12) One individual from the Illinois Behavioral
23 Health Workforce Center at UIC and SIU, appointed by the
24 Director of IDFPR;

25 (13) One individual from the Illinois Children's
26 Mental Health Partnership, appointed by the Director of

1 IDFPR;

2 (14) One individual from the field of medical social
3 work from a children's hospital, appointed by the Director
4 of IDFPR;

5 (15) One individual from a statewide organization
6 representing all fields of social work, appointed by the
7 Director of IDFPR;

8 (16) One individual from a statewide organization
9 representing school social workers, appointed by the
10 Director of IDFPR;

11 (17) One individual from a statewide organization
12 representing Latino social workers, appointed by the
13 Director of IDFPR;

14 (18) One individual from a statewide organization
15 representing Black social workers, appointed by the
16 Director of IDFPR;

17 (19) One individual from a statewide organization
18 representing child welfare agencies under contract by the
19 Department of Children and Family Services, appointed by
20 the Director of IDFPR;

21 (20) One individual from a statewide organization
22 representing community-based providers serving children
23 and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities
24 and serious mental illnesses, appointed by the Director of
25 IDFPR;

26 (21) One individual from a national organization

1 representing a nationally accepted examination for
2 clinical social work, appointed by the Director of IDFPR;

3 (22) One individual from a statewide organization
4 representing veteran social workers, appointed by the
5 Director of IDFPR; and

6 (23) One individual from a statewide organization
7 representing people with disabilities, appointed by the
8 Director of IDFPR; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall include one additional
10 member to represent the Association of Social Work Boards, who
11 shall be nominated by the Association and appointed by the
12 Director of IDFPR; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That Task Force members shall serve without
14 compensation; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Financial and
16 Professional Regulation shall provide administrative and other
17 support to the Task Force; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet a minimum of four
19 times at the call of the Chair; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit its final report
21 to the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2024, and

1 upon filing of its final report, the Task Force is dissolved.