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Cynthia Montgomery
Regulatory Counsel, State Board of Social Workers,
Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Ms. Montgomery,

I was recently informed of the proposed rule to increase licensure renewal fees by the National Association of Social Workers Pennsylvania Chapter. As a proud, licensed Pennsylvania social worker, I respectfully request this rule be reconsidered.

I value licensure in our state as a quality standard of practice and appreciate the need to generate revenue to fund regulation and control. Many social service agencies where licensed social workers are employed are facing similar budget shortfalls in our state's current economic climate. Perhaps a more modest increase could be considered? My employer does not reimburse the cost of licensure, and many employers do not fund the cost of continuing education.

I also wonder if implementing Bachelor Level Licensure would generate more revenue for the Board. This would obviously increase the amount of work for the staff but also create a new revenue source and allow for resource management. In searching for other state social work license renewal fees, I found a range of costs from \$60 to \$293 and many renewal categories. I am curious to know what research has been conducted by the Board to inform the costs of renewal and best allocate the resources generated by such fees.

As a large provider of health and mental health services in our state, continued protection of the title, licensure, and practice of social work is very important to me. I hope to see further information on the Board's consideration of diversification to meet current needs in lieu of raising costs for licensees. Please feel free to send further correspondence via email (aw1253@yahoo.com) and I will continue to follow updates from NASW-PA. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your work in upholding professional practice standards in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Amy Waugh, LSW
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