

Good morning Chairmen Sturla, and Adolph, members of the committee, and staff.

My name is Gayle Mallinger and I am the Director of the Baccalaureate Social Work program at the University of Pittsburgh. The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) was initially accredited by the Council on Social Work Education in 1973 and has been continuously reaffirmed since that time. Our program, as well as other undergraduate social work programs across the state, prepares its graduates to engage in entry-level generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, and/or organizations within this multicultural society. Professional practice settings for entry-level generalist practitioners include child welfare, family preservation, mental retardation and mental health, drug and alcohol, juvenile justice, agencies serving the aged, shelters for battered women, homeless shelters, community food banks, neighborhood citizen organizations, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers, among many others. Undergraduate social work programs uniquely prepare students for practice in human service agencies by preparing them to critically think, demonstrate an understanding of professional ethics and values, policy advocacy, and the ability to demonstrate an understanding of various theoretical perspectives as they explain individual behavior across the lifespan and behavior within the context of families, groups, organizations and communities. Upon graduation, our students are well prepared to utilize the skills they have learned throughout our program and become effective practitioners.

I am privileged this morning to introduce to you Ms. Gina Burke and Mr. Adam Farber, who will, in a few short weeks, begin their senior year in our bachelor's program. Both students serve on the Executive Board of the BASW Club.