

Good morning Chairman Sturla, Chairman Adolph, committee members, and staff.

My name is Adam Farber, and this upcoming semester will be the start of my senior year here at the University of Pittsburgh. As is Ms. Burke, I am enrolled in the School of Social Work.

I have very much to look forward to this upcoming year. Not only will I be enhancing my education by continuing to take classes directed to the practice of social work, I will be beginning my Field Placement. Field Placement is a strictly supervised, educational internship which allows us as students to fully integrate what we have learned into practical situations. The program strongly stresses the field placement as it is a capstone experience. We are strictly supervised while in placement and each of us must complete at least 600 hours of Field Placement within our senior year in order to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Concurrent with our field placement, we are enrolled in a weekly practicum seminar.

At this practicum seminar, seniors are able to further integrate their experiences within their Field Placement with what is taught within the classroom. The professors and other students help integrate social work values and ethics into each student's placement experience. Even though each student is given a specific Field assignment, the seminar gives us the opportunity to hear about and learn from the experiences of other students and we all benefit from the professor's feedback. Thus, this experiences enriches our learning because all students are exposed to various experiences within each sect of social work.

As Ms. Burke has said, the first year within the program teaches us the generalist perspective in social work. As we have learned extensively in class, the generalist perspective is an approach to helping others, that reflects social workers commitment to comprehensive assessment and planning. This unique approach recognizes the influences the social environment has on the client's quality of life. As social workers, we use our assessment of the client's supports within the environment to determine our client's capacity to manage the issues that arise. The strict supervision in Field Placement allows us to properly apply the data collection process, assessment of situations, and determine the intervention that is most appropriate for our clients. We also are able to apply skills learned in the classroom to assess the effectiveness of intervention.

As students we work very hard to obtain a Bachelors degree in Social Work. As BASW students we learn to focus on the person in their environment, abide by the NASW Code of Ethics, as well as how to empower clients within the systems we are working. A curriculum providing information that is specific to the social work practice allows us to master the skills needed to be an effective social worker.

In closing, as highlighted by Ms. Mallinger and Ms. Burke, I hope that I have furthered your understanding of the rigorous training process that we as bachelor's level social workers go through. Therefore, I ask you to support bachelor level human services

licensure, so that our most vulnerable citizens benefit from the expertise of well-educated, trained professionals.

Thank you.