

**Testimony for the House Professional Licensure Committee  
House Bill 2352**

*Amy Cazalas, BSW; MSW Student, Shippensburg University  
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Good morning Chairman Sturla, Chairman Adolph, committee members, and staff. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2352, a bill that I truly believe is important and essential.

My name is Amy Cazalas, and I am currently pursuing my Masters of Social Work (MSW). I recently graduated from Shippensburg University with a Bachelor's of Social Work (BSW) this past May.

Experience has taught me that the BSW degree is the strongest bachelor's level human service degree that one could achieve. Through my undergraduate work during my senior year, the BSW requires a field placement. These field placements allow students to learn, adapt, and grow from real life practice experience. Though it is a rigorous workload having one seminar class and four full days worth of internship, it gives students the opportunity to integrate four years of learning into practical experiences. Through the efforts of high supervision, this accumulates to 450 total hours of practice, putting forth skills from the generalist model to more advanced techniques. Students in the field practicum are well prepared for social work practice to better address the needs of individuals, families, and communities alike.

The BSW degree is also the only bachelor's level human service degree whose educational programs are accredited by a national body, which is the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The CSWE accreditation process insures that the programs meet national standards on all levels. Through this process, social work students receive appropriate education and training to better serve our clients. My course work was much more focused on working as a professional than any of my friends while in college. I had less flexibility in my courses, and I was being educated to work in front-line human services. I graduated from my bachelor's program a BSW level professional, and to say that my degree should not be recognized as the preferred degree in the delivery of direct practice services is simply unreasonable. Bachelor's level licensure speaks to our professionalism and ensures a level of competency that is needed to work with such vulnerable populations.

To ask those with related degrees to social work to obtain an additional amount of experience is not judgmental; it is simply about protecting the public. My program was nationally accredited with dictated courses that I had to take, and my professional code of ethics governs my behavior as a professional. What code of ethics is a BA in psychology following? They cannot join the American Psychological Association or the American Counseling Association