

Emergency Petition To Revise HB 505/HB 580 (The New KY Peer Support Laws)

Do you have any other comments regarding HB 505 and/or HB 580 for the Kentucky General Assembly?

- I lost my job back in July along with about 50 other employees at optimal living services since losing my job I've struggled finding employment it's took me 3 months to get the current job that I've got and I don't even start until the 17th. During this 3 months of unemployment I have struggled to keep my sobriety but with faith in God and my family I've managed to keep it.
- We agree there should be guidelines but these new ones are ridiculous, especially when you're only making \$15 a hour trying to support a family of 4. Go can pay for the extra training? Who can pay the fees to even apply? We just want to help people the same way it was done for me!
- I feel that this bill is hindering peer supports from helping the oppressed population and for some is seen as an enormous trigger due to the fear of losing their jobs and this becomes very overwhelming to the recovery addict themselves. Please reconsider all The comments your are receive because hundreds of people are at risk.
- I have worked in recovery for 17 years now started as a case manger and now a LPCA, I have witness the good and bad of having peer support speaclist. In my experience I have seen peer support take on the role of clinical and acting as if they know best, and unfortunately being able to iver ride clinicians. I think they need to be a standard set in place. If they go8ng to act clinical then they need to be required to follow the same process we clinicians do. Or they need to be well educated in what thier role is and not allowed to over step that set boundary.
- The supervision requirements make it difficult as well.
- I got into this line of work to help people, but this is making it extremely difficult to do so. Peer support saved my life and I need the chance to pay that forward.
- I think we need more peer support in Kentucky
- It is making it so expensive to go through the process that I may not be able to afford it.
- Honestly I don't mind the extra credentials but I haven't had time to complete because of fees and work not providing it for me . I have read and looked over and can't seem to quite understand everything so at the very least a revision to have it in layman terms and an extension of what is needed
- I finally found a purpose other than destroying my life and harming others, I turned my application in July still haven't heard back from the board. The truth is I can not imagine doing anything other than Peer Support and now I'm at risk of losing my purpose.
- The adc board is already behind on application process. Most peer support services have been cancelled or disrupted due to these bills. Applications have been in process for months on end with no clarification or explanation on what more is needed from an individual. There has been no discussion on limits to employment. This bill effects all those in recovery not just people in early recovery.
- Under my supervision there are 5 peers that have never received thier credentials. They have approval dates but no start date This is very confusing
- It took me 6 months to get a decision from the board regarding my application. I still won't be officially registered for I don't know because God only knows how long it will take them to update the website. Also, I have lost my peer support groups because of k have had to change the types of services I provide a dozen times in the last few months and I and my coworkers are completely overworked because these new regulations are running good people out the door. Something has got to give! The work we do matters!!!
- I am a peer support in lexington kentucky and I put in 20 or 30 hours of CEUs a year so I can keep my peer support certification i attend seminars and seminars and take exams just to keep my hours up and now with this.new law im going to lose my peer certification because I dont have the money to pay for it and dont know even the steps to do so. Please helps us fix this issue many people are and will be losing jobs because of this and that can be detrimental to people's recovery
- I wish things were clearer
- This has been a very scary time for me and my family. My husband and I are both kentucky peer support
- With the new Medicaid limits it makes Peer support services not sustainable for a business to offer. then with these new requirements they are expecting an increase in salary while service limits have increased. These two things combined will lead to businesses no longer offering PSS services-that are an essential part of the rehabilitation process.

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Peer support is not a clinical service and cannot be treated as one. Requiring clinical-style licensing, exams, and supervision places financial and structural barriers on the very people peer support is designed to uplift. These rules are pushing people out of the workforce, reducing access to recovery services, and weakening programs across Kentucky. Quality in peer support is achieved through strong training, ethics, and lived experience — not clinical gatekeeping. We ask that HB 505 and HB 580 be revised to protect the accessibility and integrity of peer support.

Why make employment more difficult for those who are truly trying to rebuild their lives? The state of Kentucky continues to put unnecessary obstacles in the path of residents who are working hard to recover and contribute to their communities. While I understand and respect the intent behind HB 505 and HB 580—to strengthen accountability and standardization within behavioral health services—I am deeply concerned about the negative impact these measures will have on current and future Peer Support Specialists across the Commonwealth. Peer support is founded on lived experience, trust, and mutual understanding. The proposed revisions risk undermining that foundation by: Creating unnecessary barriers to entry and retention. The new requirements may disqualify or discourage qualified individuals with lived experience from serving in these vital roles—especially those who have already overcome significant challenges to reenter the workforce. Destabilizing the existing workforce. Many trained and certified Peer Support Specialists now face uncertainty about their credentials, job security, and ability to continue providing services under the new structure. This instability could lead to turnover and service disruptions at a time when behavioral health needs are greater than ever. Limiting access to recovery-oriented services. Peer support has been one of Kentucky’s most effective and cost-efficient strategies for promoting recovery, reducing relapse, and easing pressure on crisis systems. Restrictive revisions threaten to shrink this workforce, leaving fewer supports available for individuals in recovery and their families. Eroding the value of lived experience. Peer Support Specialists are not clinicians—they are mentors, advocates, and living proof that recovery is possible. When regulations begin to mirror clinical oversight models, we risk losing what makes peer support truly transformative. I urge lawmakers to pause implementation and re-engage with those directly impacted—including certified Peer Support Specialists, supervisors, and community programs—before moving forward. Any reform must honor the principle of “nothing about us without us”, ensuring that those with lived experience have a real voice in shaping the laws that govern their profession. Kentucky’s peer support movement has long stood as a model of hope, recovery, and empowerment. As written, these bills threaten to undo years of progress and silence the very voices that have helped so many rebuild their lives. We respectfully urge the Kentucky General Assembly and all relevant agencies to reconsider and amend the legislation to ensure that: People in recovery are not financially or professionally harmed by new certification or employment restrictions; The peer support workforce is preserved and strengthened, not reduced through unnecessary regulatory barriers; and Kentucky remains a national leader in recovery-oriented care, upholding the values of empowerment, inclusion, and lived experience. Peer Support Specialists are the backbone of Kentucky’s recovery system. The unintended consequences of HB 505 and HB 580 threaten to undo the progress that has made Kentucky a leader in this field. We call for immediate review and revision of these laws in partnership with the individuals and organizations most directly affected.

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- Laws like this are not designed to save life's but rather protect mcos and CEOs! Why is it that no one ever checks with the treatment providers doing it correctly? Instead of closing the frauds like arc , protea, Walker house, St. John's, and others who abuse the codes you punish the clients we serve. This legislative body must do better
- It is impossible to remain a peer support specialist with all of the new guidelines being imposed on us. We pride ourselves with not being clinical staff because the beauty of being a peer support specialist is to reach those who can relate to lived experience. The supervision component is not feasible for many to do especially if they are between jobs due to so many places closing down.
- I have been working as a peer specialist for 2 years and I love my job. I have lost my kentucky health insurance and now have too pay for private health insurance and paying these new fees and and training classes are very expensive.
- This country needs peer supports who can relate and bond with our clients it needs to be cheaper or fee for licenses
- I'm a recovering addict who finally found something I'm good at in life and that's being a Peer Support Specialist. With all of the new regulations I don't know if I will still qualify for this position and that's scary. My family has hope in me excelling through this field of employment that I have a future now. They even invited me to Christmas for the first time in four years so please don't take this opportunity from me or place unrealistic expectations on the requirements for this position. Thank you for your time.
- Recovery has given me so much....I have maintained the same employment for over 3 years....came off probation, regained custody of my children back, and just bought a house earlier this year. I love my job and being able to help others. I sent my application in back in August and still have not been able to get the temporary certification. The last thing I want is to lose my job....I just ask that you consider an extension. I do be believe peer supports need the accountability and training. I just don't believe there was much thought that went into just how many applications would be submitted now as more and more people are recovering which is mainly due to peer supports helping them and those people in return want to extend a helping hand and give back what was given to them.
- Peer support is a critical role in the recovery process. Since this bill has been passed and went into effect, there have been numerous people's lives (whom I know personally) negatively impacted as a result. Please consider the revisions that are being proposed.
- This has ruined everything I have been working towards and its wrong and unfair for people like me who are tired and just want stable meaningful work in this field we choose to be apart of and without others watching us succeed and do what we're doing will impact the people who are in rehab needing people like myself and others with a year clean and working to help those people who are defeated and need to see us here giving them the inspiration they need to continue their journey. So please help us so we can continue to help others. Thank you
- Every angle has been hit whether financially or supporting and it creates mass barriers with our clients.
- its gonna be until december for me to do the octc classes so im gonna have to do what i can online untill the december classes are open.
- This bill will inadvertently cause many deaths as an unintentional result of these barriers.
- I just know that trying to meet the deadline with not barely making anything as a peer support specialist doesnt balance out the money I have to pay for the said trainings in the short period of time to the money that I make per week. I don't understand why the government or whoever is trying to push peer supports out which has been proven to be more effective with therapist working together then just a therapist. It's like do you want the people that are in recovery to relapse?
- There isn't any clear direction or enough people to supervise
- As a peer support specialist, supervisor, and social worker, I have witnessed firsthand how the implementation of HB 505 and HB 580 has created unnecessary barriers for individuals in recovery and for the agencies that support them. These laws, while well-intended, were developed without meaningful consultation from frontline workers — the very people doing this work every day. As a result, they have made it more difficult for people seeking recovery and have devastated parts of the workforce, causing many dedicated peers to lose their jobs and, in some heartbreaking cases, return to use. Peer support is not a clinical role. It is a relationship-based, recovery-oriented practice built on trust, mutuality, and shared experience. When legislation imposes clinical licensing structures, costly fees, and certification hurdles, it undermines the essence of peer work and contradicts national fidelity standards recognized by SAMHSA. As a supervisor and social worker, I believe in accountability, ethics, and standards — but not at the expense of people's dignity, stability, or recovery. I urge the Kentucky General Assembly to work with those of us on the front lines to revise these laws so they truly strengthen, rather than harm, Kentucky's peer support workforce and the communities we serve. — Shauna O'Nan Traylor

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It seems to me that the community wants to shun the community that wants help

All the supervision it is necessary for this is extremely hard to get in order.

I've been peer support for 3 years now just to start all over.

The drug epidemic is not going away. A person who decides to work, help, and try to assist others does not make a great deal of money to begin with. You have to love what you do. We should not be able to not even survive ourselves though, and have the few benefits we do have be taken. It doesn't benefit the people we help, and can cause relapse to the ones who are helping.

Peer support is a great thing especially for people in recovery. Why take something away that can influence someone's life in a positive aspect

I understand that laws change but why make it harder for a Peer Support Specialist to help recovering addicts? We are already underpaid, its costing hundreds of dollars more to get the certificates and even when we do manage to get the money and complete, its taking months to even get a TRIS account.

I lost my management position due to the law.

We need an extension and much guidance, ive held my apss for multiple years now and have a built a career that im going to lose because we need help.

Laid off. Forced to do meaningless work going job to job. It's very disheartening to know that Kentucky is doing this to us. Peer support is pretty much non existent.

Myself or my clinical supervisor can not understand what needs to be done for certification. Myself and a few coworkers have had severe delays in getting our applications answered.

This is unfair to those who have had the peer support and disrupts employment. Many of us are low income and more fees not to mention the significant impact on our employment. please revise these laws !

Lauded for all classes and now cannot take the test til January

It is unorganized, unclear and causing hundreds of people to lose their jobs.

I have emailed and called the board to try and get answers for my team and have yet to get clear answers. I am a supervisor at a non profit and we are recovery coaches but most have had there peer support and are very proud of it. The environment we work in dosen't offer supervisor and they are all very proud of there peer support certification. We are unable to help the understand what to do to help them keep there peer support. I understand that training should continue but this is making it were peer supports are unable to get this certificate making there jobs and recovery at risk. We need clear answers and training or supervision needs to be provided this is unfair and is changing what peer support actually is. Myself I am unable to find supervision and have only worked in a non profit as a recovery coach and its unclear if my work hours will even count. Please make peer support back to what it was we help so many people & now all people are suffering from this change.

As a nurse practitioner working in Primary Care and Substance Use Disorder, this could not be more detrimental. The problems this was intended to resolve were from inpatient facilities where peer support should not prevail anyway. Peer Support is a crucial, integral part in outpatient treatment and these bills have created a disaster for those of us trying to keep this piece of the puzzle together.

I am a peer support specialist that recently had to send money to get temporary registered alcohol and drug peer support license and also will have to pay another fee to be under the board just to keep my job.

The state will be loosing a lot of good PSS due to this. The pay we receive versus the cost of all of this is ridiculous. Once again a select few bad apples has ruined it for the rest of us.

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Getting the correct person to do my supervision hours so i can remain active.

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I am struggling to support my family and am in the process of filing bankruptcy on my business because of the changes in legislation. The most important part of mine AND any other AODE are the peer support specialists that work there. Getting my peer support certification and helping people lead to me opening my own mental health and substance abuse clinic and opening two sober living homes. I am placing the last three clients in their homes at the end of this month and my career in substance abuse treatment and helping others that still suffer is over. I am being left with around an \$80,000 debt and a piece of my heart is gone. God put me on this Earth to go through what I went through and be one of the very few who survive it, and then give back all that was given to me. You all took all of that away from me. All because you want to save a little money instead of save millions of lives. Shame on you.

I am a licensed Social Worker in Kentucky. For the past 10 years I have worked with people in addiction and recovery. I have several Peer Support's on the team and they play a vital part in the behavioral part of the recovery process, in addition to the education/ experience they share. This includes helping people stay sober and getting back out there in the community; never returning to this expensive habit for them and society!! I'm also a woman who has recovered from addiction!! We need the lived experience in recovery programs 100%!!

There's not much communication coming from the board (KYADC). No responses to emails or phone calls.

I have been certified as a KY APSS for over eight years and have maintained my CEUs over that duration. However, due to confusion at various levels and state certification organizations, we cannot receive clarified guidance or direction. I've also read that your certification is only applicable if you have been trained within the last two years. This is unfair as I should only have to pay for the 'new/added hours of training.' So many people are left without jobs and the complete Peer Support system throughout Kentucky will crash, ultimately causing more harm to those most vulnerable. Please reconsider this bill and find better solutions for ongoing supervision/certification. Thank you!

I am a clinician, a CSW, and I have been in recovery since 2002. My original career was in civil engineering. As a licensed professional engineer (PE), I designed bridges, passed the PE exam, and continued in that career for a long time after seeking treatment. I was one with this disease early in life. I was so incredibly fortunate that my family had the resources to send me to treatment at Hazelden in Center City, Minnesota. Years later, after becoming a peer support specialist during the COVID-19 pandemic, I decided to return to graduate school to pursue my master's in social work and found my true calling. Peer support specialists play a completely different and incredibly crucial role for those trying to recover. So much effort, time, and resources are devoted to the opioid crisis, peer support specialists provide a level of support that only comes from lived experiences. I have seen firsthand how they can reach and understand clients on a level that, unless you have lived through it, you can't understand or will ever be able to provide. Additionally, I have seen firsthand with recent clients that knowing a career in this field as a peer support specialist motivates and gives them a new purpose in life, helping others. No other profession is capable of providing this to individuals who truly make life-or-death decisions, decisions that, in the moment, feel impossible without support from others who understand and have made the right choice in the same situation. Our society continues to face this crisis; this bill, if not amended, will fuel this crisis in ways that absolutely terrify someone who has lost family members and friends to this devastating disease. Please listen to those of us who have lived with this disease, but are so proud, grateful, and thankful because we have faced and continue to face this crisis.

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Myself or my clinical supervisor can not understand what needs to be done for certification. Myself and a few coworkers have had severe delays in getting our applications answered.

I have a peer support license I can't get through because I cannot get ADC to remove someone who never supervised me. I have a CADAC 1 and 2 and the APSS and after the first all of them will be null and void and I will be unemployed

As a person that has worked in SUD for 3 years, 2 of which has been a CPSS, I feel that if we have kept up all ceu's and remained in good standing with DBHDID then we should have been grandfathered in.

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In my opinion, peer support is much needed for people who struggle with addiction/ mental health. I feel like these changes are making it difficult for clients to get the services they so desperately need to recover. I feel like the documentation and hours that pss are able to bill now is ridiculous. I feel that the board does not make it clear on the requirements for peer supports to get certified through the board and the guidelines contradict themselves in many places. It is very confusing for pss who have been in the field for sometime trying to get the requirements met by January. I truly believe this change will cause harm to clients who need the support they receive, just knowing that a peer has lived experience and can relate to you, gives these clients hope. I am concerned that these changes will not only affect the clients who need the services but the people who have worked in the field for a long time. PSs is not an easy task and it takes a special person to help these clients. This will only hinder the client's recovery process.

I have held a peer support license and kept it intact since 2020. Followed all laws and regulations. These new laws and regulations are not able to be understood by the average individual. If you were trying to get the companies who are employing peer supports you are not. You are getting the individual workers.

I am a clinical director at a 200 bed inpatient facility and we are currently unable to provide the services that people in recovery need because we cannot keep peer supports. Many have left the field and sought other roles due to these bills. Others want to work but cannot due to MCOs denying care to clients because their PSS is not fully certified. This confusion has made it easier for Medicaid to deny claims across the board.

The requirements are way to extensive for the beginning Peer Support. Eliminate the 500 hour requirement of work hours and allow Temp licenses to bill Medicaid so that we can keep our job,

I barely make ends meet and had to sign years long agreement to have my employer pay for my ceu test supervisor etc. this has been a hardship.

I have had my peer support 4 years and now due to not being able to afford and unrealistic expectations I may have to give up my peer support after 4 years of helping other addicts in recovery

I think an extension would be best to at least cope with the amount of applications that will be coming in on top of the already slow process.

The process is unorganized and I'm going to lose my position along with my employees