



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES



August 16, 2017

South Dakota Social Work Examiners
810 N. Main Street, Suite 298
Spearfish, SD 57783

Dear Board of Directors,

In 2017, the Association of Social Work Board created a program titled, "The Path to Licensure". Through this program, eight social work scholars from across the country were selected to collaborate with educators, practitioners, and regulators encouraging and supporting student professional development. I am proud to let you know that I was selected as one of the eight scholars.

It is my belief that the student's journey under the Path to Licensure builds a bridge of understanding so professional regulation is embraced as an essential component of the profession and is a clear component of the competencies that educators teach. As you all know, the increase in student knowledge of professional regulation establishes minimum standards of competence to become and remain licensed within our state, plays a critical role in public protection and in ensuring high standards for safe and competent professional practice. As a result, the **ASWB Path to Licensure Institute** is a bold twofold initiative:

- Scholars implement a Path to Licensure program during the coming school year
- Scholars complete social work regulation-specific research

I feel compelled to write you this letter because – to your credit – I believe you can play a vital role in accomplishing the above initiatives. I would love the opportunity to have 30 minutes of the board's time at the next board meeting to discuss further this initiative and a possible partnership between the University of South Dakota's MSW program and the South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners.

I look forward to meeting with the board of directors and exploring this topic further.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly J Bass', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Kelly J Bass, DSW, MSW, CSW-PIP, ACS