

Points of view on regulation

Be ready to catch the perfect wave

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When regulators understand the points of view of other key stakeholders, they are better able to protect the public and ensure practitioner competency using the least restrictive means.

A LAWMAKER or POLICY MAKER may believe:

- We already have too much regulation.
- A private sector certification process will suffice.
- Regulation mainly perpetuates and enhances the professionals themselves.
- To maintain focus on public protection, the regulatory board should have mainly members of the public rather than members of the regulated profession.

A REGULATOR may believe:

- Licensing can bring diverse communities into the profession.
- The regulator is there to protect the public not to protect individual practitioners.
- A standard of care must be in place to protect those who cannot protect themselves.
- Without a licensure system, it isn't possible to remove an unsafe practitioner.
- It isn't realistic to trust everyone to do the right thing.
- If we leave it to the marketplace to weed out bad practitioners, the only way to right a wrong is to hire an attorney and pursue a lawsuit.
- Collectively, regulators make a difference in the health and well-being of citizens.

A SOCIAL WORKER may believe:

- I can uphold the code of ethics without a license.
- I know what I'm doing in my job, and my employer and the market will hold me accountable.
- Social work's commitment to ethics as a professional value means that social workers are unlikely to violate standards of practice.
- I want the regulators who hold me accountable to be social workers themselves because they understand my profession and my code of ethics.
- I believe in public protection, and I want my profession to be protected from bad practitioners through regulation and licensure.

A member of the PUBLIC may believe:

- Regulation restricts my access to services.
- Regulation makes services more expensive.
- Evidence suggests that regulation doesn't do much to protect health and safety.
- Licensure drives up wages for those individuals who are licensed.
- A license doesn't help when the harm's already been done.
- I would rather not have to worry about getting a good social worker. Licensure helps me feel confident I've found a qualified, ethical, and competent practitioner.

