

**Client name** Vanessa Mc Neill  
**Form** Montana Licensing Reform Task Force  
**Matter** Vanessa McNeill - Rules  
**Sent** June 8, 2026 at 11:30 AM  
**Due**  
**Submitted** June 8, 2026 at 11:30 AM

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### Vanessa McNeill

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## Montana Licensing Reform Task Force

This Task Force was created pursuant to Executive Order 1-2026 on January 29, 2026.

### Purpose of the Licensing Reform Task Force

The Task Force shall provide the Governor with recommendations and strategies for the State of Montana to reform the professional occupational licensing system for the purposes of:

- identifying and removing burdens and barriers faced by licensees that are not necessary to protect the public; and
- improving access to and availability of professional services for citizens across Montana, including rural communities.

In developing recommendations and strategies, the Task Force shall seek input from Montana citizens, legislators, Montana associations whose members are licensed occupational professionals, professional licensing boards, relevant state agencies, advisory groups and researchers focused on occupational licensing, and other appropriate stakeholders as determined by the Task Force.

### Public Record

Please note that all information received through this form is public record.

#### Which committee would you like to receive your comment?

*Full Task Force*  
*Health Care Subcommittee*  
*Construction Subcommittee*  
*Barriers Subcommittee*  
*Sunset Review Subcommittee*

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## We want to hear from you!

We would like to receive any comments you would like the Task Force, or one of its subcommittees, to review. In addition, we are specifically looking for feedback for:

1. Specific topics a committee or the task force should consider, and
2. Specific people or organizations you think the task force should hear from.

#### Do you have a general comment or a specific person or topic for the Task Force to hear from?

## What are your comments?

*Dear Task Force,*

*I'm writing to you on behalf of MSWs, LACs, and SWLCs who are currently finding difficulty with getting full licensing. My business contracts regularly with LACs and experienced SWLCs to provide trainings to MT BBH licensees across the state. From my experience, these individuals have decades of wisdom and knowledge of Suicide Prevention. One particular trainer, I can attest to, has educated 1000s of people over the past eight years, working with me.*

*Many of these individuals are juggling careers, parenting, training development and presentation, current mental health work, as well as trying to become fully licensed Social Workers. I've witnessed one of my trainers taking the licensing exam multiple times and getting within 4 points of a passing grade.*

*I've got specific accounts of SWLCs having documented and demonstrated test anxiety, a legitimate affliction and diagnosis. As a Psychology Instructor, I've provided special allowances for any student with this affliction. "Test anxiety, relates to how much fear, worry, uneasiness, panic, restlessness, and tension students feel when just thinking about upcoming examinations or tests. Another way to think of anxiety is as a result of uncertainty about impending things (Craig, 1995). Test anxiety is the term for the emotional reactions or feeling of uneasiness that develops prior to exams and lasts during the exam period (Sepehrian, 2013). Anxiety is frequently linked to self-efficacy pressures, assessments of the severity of the situation, and responses to a source of stress (Pappamihel, 2002)."*

*I implore you to consider providing alternatives to basic exams that better capture an individuals skills and abilities. Montana's need for providers is dire and this is one major bottleneck that I believe could be removed and open doors for critical patients in need of care.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.*

*Best to you,*

*Vanessa McNeill, Owner & CE Director*

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