

Submitter: Ellie Hofer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4071

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair's Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Ellie Hofer. I live in Oregon City, Oregon. I write today to encourage you to support the -2 Amendments to HB 4071, which would enact the Social Work Licensing Compact.

I am passionate about the social work licensing compact because, as a student, this will directly impact me and many others with whom I work and learn. Furthermore, social workers make up so much of the behavioral workforce and are desperately needed in this field, not just within Oregon. This compact would help so much, especially as we move into a more electronic world where telehealth is much more accessible.

As I mentioned above, social workers are the lifeblood of the behavioral health workforce. Social workers are omnipresent throughout our society, including in the government, schools, universities, social service agencies, communities, the military, health care, and mental health organizations.

Social workers are overworked and underappreciated. Unsurprisingly, we do not have anywhere near enough of them in Oregon.

Again, please support the -2 Amendments to HB 4071, which would enact the Social Work Licensing Compact, which will lessen the behavioral health workforce shortage in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Ellie Hofer

George Fox University, Master of Social Work, Expected May 2025