

COMPACT MAP

From the Desk of Representative Ed Diehl

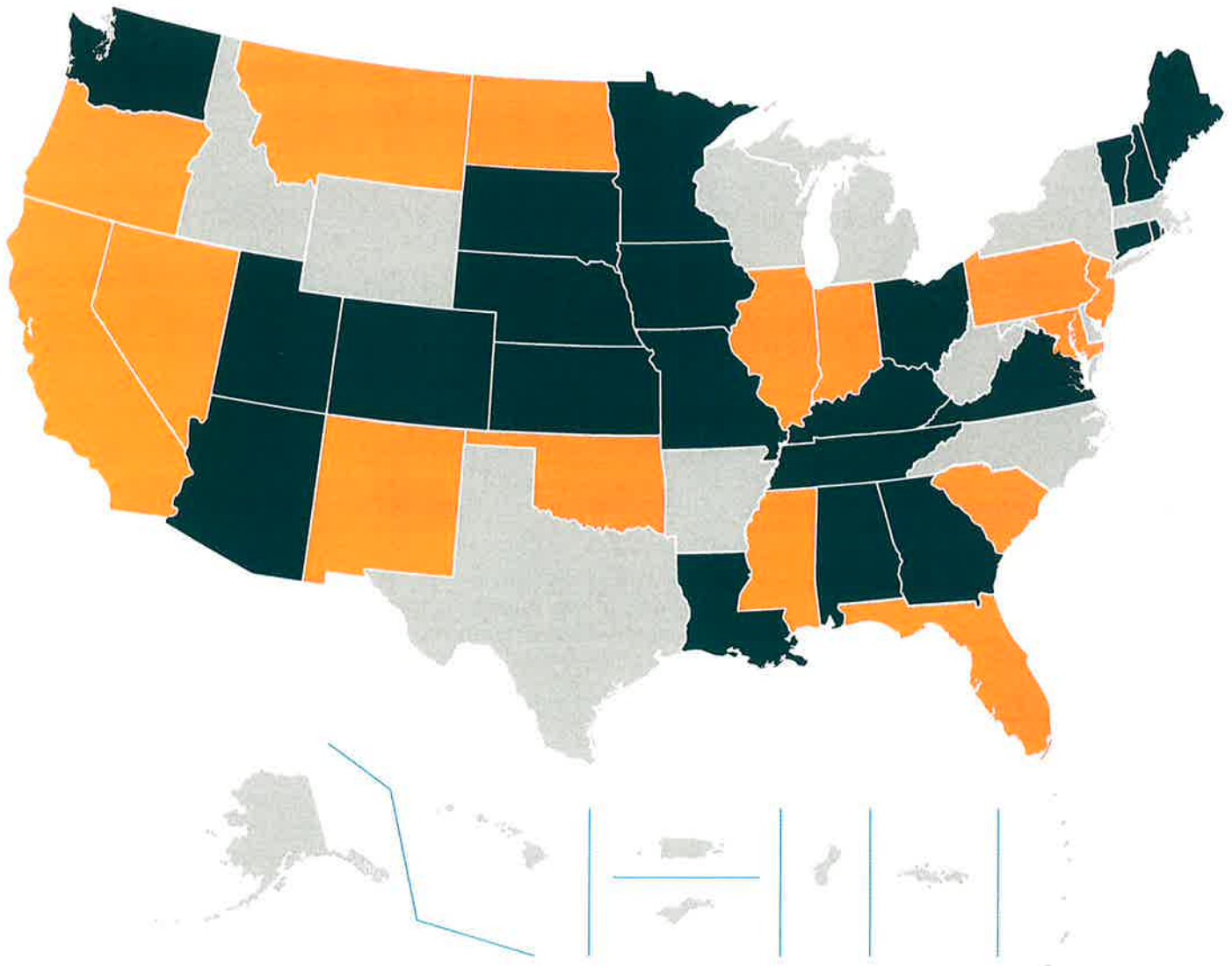


National Association of Social Workers

OREGON CHAPTER

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Diehl".

■ No Active Legislation ■ Legislation Pending ■ Legislation Enacted





From the Desk of Representative Ed Diehl

MR for HB 2013: Enact the Social Work Licensure Compact to Address Oregon's Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage

The Challenge:

Oregon is currently grappling with a significant shortage of behavioral health professionals, including social workers. A recent report highlighted that 27% of adult Oregonians are living with a mental illness, and the state has the fourth-highest rate of unmet mental health treatment needs in the country.

This shortage is exacerbated by lengthy licensure processes; for instance, social workers moving to Oregon have experienced delays of up to five months in obtaining their licenses, hindering their ability to provide essential services promptly.

The Solution: HB 2013's Minority Report and the Social Work Licensure Compact

The Social Work Licensure Compact is an interstate agreement designed to facilitate the mobility of licensed social workers across member states. By enacting HB 2013's Minority Report, Oregon would join this compact, allowing social workers licensed in other member states to practice here without unnecessary delays. This initiative aims to eliminate barriers to practice and client care while ensuring public protection.

Supporting MR HB 2013, Oregon lawmakers can take a decisive step toward mitigating the behavioral health workforce shortage, improving access to essential services, and promoting a more diverse and mobile workforce. Joining the Social Work Licensure Compact aligns with our commitment to public safety and the well-being of all Oregonians.

Let's work together to empower Oregon to become a leader in providing accessible and effective social services. Support and enact the Social Work Licensure Compact.

Benefits of Joining the Compact:

1. Enhanced Workforce Mobility:

The compact allows eligible social workers to practice in all member states, reducing application processing times and enabling professionals to serve where they are most needed.

2. Improved Access to Care:

By facilitating the entry of qualified social workers into Oregon, the compact can help address the current workforce shortage, ensuring that more Oregonians receive timely behavioral health services.

3. Support for Military Families:

Military spouses who are licensed social workers often face challenges when relocating. The compact supports these families by recognizing licenses across member states, allowing for seamless transitions.

4. Enhanced Public Safety:

The compact creates a data system of information about licensees, including license status, investigative information, and adverse actions, thereby enhancing a state's ability to protect public safety.