

Written Testimony in Support of HB 3351: Enacting the Interstate Counseling Compact in Oregon

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is **Janiece Anjali**, and I am a **Licensed Professional Counselor** practicing in **Ashland, Oregon**. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3351, which would allow Oregon to join the Interstate Counseling Compact. I have had several clients whose mental health care was disrupted when they moved to another state to find work or affordable housing, to go to college or to move in with family because of their health challenges. Each move was a significant transition, and my clients would have benefitted from being able to continue the therapeutic relationship with me during and after such upheavals. For some clients, finding a new therapist was time-consuming and challenging. The Counseling Compact could ease this problem, at least for clients, in other compact states.

By joining the Counseling Compact, Oregon can:

- **Expand Access to Care:** Allowing licensed counselors from other member states to practice in Oregon will increase the availability of mental health professionals, particularly in underserved and rural areas.
- **Support Military Families and Relocated Clients:** Military families and individuals who move frequently would benefit from continued access to their counselors without interruption.
- **Reduce Administrative Burdens:** The Compact will streamline the licensing process, saving time and financial resources for both practitioners and regulatory agencies.
- **Maintain High Professional Standards:** Participating states share disciplinary information to ensure the quality and safety of care provided across state lines. I am pleased to see that Oregon is maintaining high standards for all who might practice in this state.

As a provider, I see HB 3351 as a crucial step toward expanding access to quality care while ensuring efficiency in serving more clients. I encourage you to support this bill to enhance Oregon's mental health system and make essential services more accessible. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janiece Anjali, LPC, LMHC, PLLC

ja@janieceanjali.com