



February 17, 2025

Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
RE: HB 2554, enacts the interstate Social Work Licensure Compact – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 68 which would ratify the Social Work Licensure Compact to facilitate interstate practice for social workers by establishing a multistate license with uniform requirements across member states. The compact aims to improve public access to social work services, reduce redundant licensing requirements, and support workforce mobility.

My name is Maria Garcia. I am a Senior Director of State Government Affairs for Fresenius Medical Care – a national kidney healthcare organization and leading provider of services and products for individuals living with kidney disease. In Oregon, we operate 36 outpatient dialysis facilities and 1 acute inpatient dialysis location. We employ over 550 healthcare professionals that provide dialysis treatment to approximately 2,400 Oregonians.

Social workers are a very important part of our kidney dialysis clinic care teams. They primarily educate patients and their families on treatment options and help patients through possible challenges to access treatment. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires every person receiving kidney dialysis to receive social work services from a master's level licensed social worker. Social workers have similar licensing and educational requirements across all states, making them appropriate for a professional compact. Compacts assist in improving patients' access to quality and timely services, allowing providers to quickly and easily move across states to provide care in areas that need it the most.

For all these reasons, Fresenius Medical Care strongly supports HB 2554, and we respectfully urge its passage out of your committee.

Sincerely,

Maria Garcia

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