

Submitter: Emelie Douglas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3351

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

I am writing on behalf of the Board of the Oregon Counseling Association. We are a group of professional counselors and therapists practicing in Portland, Oregon. We are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 3351, which would allow Oregon to join the Interstate Counseling Compact. This initiative is essential for enhancing access to mental health services for our communities, particularly as we navigate an ever-changing social landscape.

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, ensuring they receive consistent support during transitions.

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, fostering trust and integrity in our profession.

As a leaders and providers in the mental health field, we agree that HB 3351 as a crucial step toward expanding access to quality care while ensuring efficiency in serving more clients. We 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,

Emelie Douglas, MA, LPC

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President, Oregon Counseling Association