

Submitter: Ben Roche
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2357

Testimony in Support of Interstate Licensure Compacts in Oregon

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ben Roche, and I am asking you to support of adopting Interstate Licensure Compacts in Oregon. This issue is deeply personal to me and my family. My late father-in-law, Dr. Robert C. Hall, was a dedicated physician who practiced medicine here in Oregon. Throughout his career, he frequently lamented the challenges facing businesses and healthcare professionals in our state. From burdensome regulations to restrictive hiring practices and the high cost of malpractice insurance, he saw firsthand how these barriers impacted not only those in the medical field but also the communities they served.

His legacy of caring for others inspired his two granddaughters—my daughters—to follow in his footsteps and pursue careers in healthcare. They both dreamed of becoming Registered Nurses, committed to making a difference in the lives of their patients. My oldest daughter recently fulfilled her dream, and is now working in the maternal ward, where she brings compassion and skill to new mothers and their babies. However, she had to move to Oklahoma to achieve this, as she obtained her nursing certification there.

It is heartbreaking to realize that, despite her deep ties to Oregon, returning to practice here would be an uphill battle due to the lack of licensure reciprocity. The inability to easily transfer certifications across state lines creates unnecessary barriers, limiting the mobility of skilled healthcare professionals and contributing to the ongoing nursing shortage.

Oregon has always been known for its forward-thinking and welcoming spirit. We must extend that same openness to our healthcare workforce. By joining Interstate Licensure Compacts, we can make it easier for dedicated professionals like my daughter to bring their talents back to Oregon, enriching our communities and improving access to essential healthcare services.

I believe this change would honor the legacy of my father-in-law and benefit countless families across the state. Let's make Oregon a place that welcomes those who wish to serve and heal, no matter where their journey began.

Thank you for considering this important issue, and I respectfully urge your support

for Interstate Licensure Compacts in Oregon.