

Submitter: Christine Reeh
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:

My name is Christine Reeh, and I am a licensed clinical social worker and mental health therapist, practicing virtually, throughout the state of Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3351, which would allow Oregon to join the Interstate Counseling Compact. As of February 2025, 37 states have enacted Counseling Compact legislation. Oregon has not joined the Counseling Compact.

This bill would greatly help my practice and those I counsel since often enough, my clients relocate due to work or family obligations, and maintaining continuity of care across state lines has been a challenge.

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.

This bill matters so much to my clients as they have often expressed difficulty continuing the therapy process all over again with someone new when having to relocate. This is a critical concern in my field of mental health therapy because the nature of the therapeutic work often involves working through traumatic events while in the context of a trusting relationship between client and therapist. These relationships can take time to build, particularly in cases involving trauma. Furthermore, in an era of health insurance companies increasingly limiting access to mental health treatment, unnecessarily lengthening treatment by virtue of changing new therapists, leads to an increase in denial of payment for therapy sessions.

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,
Christine Reeh, MSW, LCSW