

Submitter: Sara Dryden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2554

To Whom It Concerns:

I am writing to support House Bill 2554 regarding the enabling of interstate Social Work Licensure Compact. In the age of tele-medicine, it is in the best interest of individual and practitioners to be able to work across state lines. I have many clients who either travel for work, or can do their work online and thus have increased movement out of the state. Often, this movement is due to extended families in need, and the capacity to hold a job and do care-taking of family is a privilege, but also a burden. Being unable to have access to one's chosen mental health provider when in transit through the country is a disservice to our citizens. Furthermore, as our political landscape becomes ever more divisive, the ability for vulnerable citizens whose identities and way of life may be in danger from state political policies need to be able to find support. Please consider both the challenges and the privileges that are present in our current culture and support the interstate licensure compact.

Thank you for the important work you do, and fighting for what is ethical and right for mental health care providers and consumers.

Sincerely,

Sara Dryden, OR LCSW L6150