

Submitter: Allison Mello  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2554

Allison Mello, MSW, LCSW  
February 18, 2025

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for HB 2554 – Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Allison Mello, and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2554, which would allow Oregon to join the Social Work Licensure Compact.

It is most critical at this time in our country, I feel, that the recognition of the value of the social work discipline be recognized and supported for the benefit to our society as a whole. HB 2554 would provide opportunities for educated, trained, and licensed professionals to impart the skills needed to help others who require or would benefit from an array of the expertise that the social work profession can offer in numerous areas of service to the public.

Like many of my colleagues, I have witnessed firsthand the growing demand for social work services in our state. Professional exhaustion of social workers is at an all-time high, and we simply do not have enough qualified social work experts to fulfill the needs of all Oregonians who would realize improvement in various areas of life challenges through the support and assistance of a professional social worker. By joining the Compact, we can help address this crisis by making it easier for qualified professionals to work in Oregon, reducing barriers to licensure, and expanding the social work workforce.

This bill would also provide much-needed relief for existing social workers by increasing our professional mobility. Many of us have family in other states or want the flexibility to work across state lines through telehealth, strengthening the vocation and improving society as a whole. HB 2554 would streamline this process while also ensuring that Oregon remains a competitive and attractive professional opportunity

for social workers.

I strongly urge you to support this legislation so that Oregon can take a crucial step toward addressing our social work shortage and improving access to this critical care need. Thank you for your time and consideration to this important and beneficial human need.

Sincerely,  
Allison Mello, MSW, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker