

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

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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-Chair's Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maija Ryan, 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.

I have worked for a long period of time with families and young people. Once they move to college out of state, they have to stop seeing their therapist just at a crucial transition time in their lives when they are leaving their family. During the COVID pandemic, many people were moving out of state to be with family or due to changes in their lives, and had to stop seeing their therapist and start a new with long waitlists. I also work in Portland, where many people from Vancouver Washington are looking for therapists and I am unable to serve them due to the state line or to see them virtually. This bill would help my patients have continuity of care and keep trusting relationships that assist in deeper healing work.

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. HB 2554 would streamline this process and ensure that Oregon remains a competitive and attractive place 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 care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maija Ryan