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Dear Chairman Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jan Parker and I am a semi-retired licensed clinical social worker who has spent 37 years working in the field of mental health serving the people of Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2554, which would allow Oregon to join the Social Work License Compact.

I became a social worker all those years ago in order to help support children and their families. I have seen firsthand just how important it is for people to have access to these critical services in a timely fashion. And, as a clinical supervisor, I understand how frustrating it can be for social workers in the early stages of their careers to encounter restrictive licensing requirements that make it very difficult for them to offer their skills where they are most needed. This became blindingly clear during the Covid pandemic. The Social Work Licensure Compact appears to be a common sense solution to this challenging situation.

By passing House Bill 2554, Oregon can join a growing number of states in making social work licensure more efficient and more accessible. This will ensure that future generations of social workers can move seamlessly across state lines to meet demand, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

I urge you to support HB2554 and make Oregon a leader in ensuring that social workers can provide care where it is most needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Parker, LCSW

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