

Submitter: Christine Landis
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
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 Christine Landis and I am a licensed social worker in Oregon. I have been in practice for 35 years. I very strongly support House Bill 2554, which would allow Oregon to join the Social Work Licensure Compact. During the pandemic the field of social work experienced a surge in patients needing psychotherapy and in clinicians expanding their practice to include virtual appointments. Patients came to value the accessibility of clinicians if they moved or travelled to other states. The consistency of the therapeutic relationship is a large part of the healing process. I personally experienced having a patient move to another state and not being able to offer continued services due to not having the inter-state compact. This disrupted treatment and severed the working relationship. Clinicians are not interchangeable. Being able to continue services in a mobile society is critical and essential. Joining the compact would mean increased support from other states to help with the short supply of social workers. Working across state lines would improve access to care and provide flexibility in providing care via teletherapy. Please pass HB 2554 which is in the very best interest for both social workers and the many patients and clients whom we serve.