

Submitter: Linda Orange
On Behalf Of: Private Practice LCSW
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2554

My name is Linda Orange and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, currently licensed in Oregon, Washington and Arizona. It took me a year to complete LCSW applications in WA and AZ and the cost was over \$500. That is in addition to Oregon LCSW licensure. I am a trauma therapist and have practiced in Lincoln County Oregon for over 20 years, in schools, child advocacy, county mental health and private practice. I do women's trauma (emotional, physical, childhood sexual abuse, and adult rape and domestic violence) groups on Zoom. My groups began in Lincoln County, working with LGBTQ+adolescents who were questioning their sexuality while experiencing bullying and emotional abuse. I am honored to say these groups prevented many suicides. My groups expanded to Women's trauma groups, with one group that has been meeting for more than 6 years. As my group has grown, I accepted women from AZ and then WA. In order to allow these women's into the group or for them to meet with me for individual therapy, I was required to obtain licenses in WA and AZ.

I was practicing during the Covid epidemic and my group was required to move the meeting to Zoom. During that time, licensure restrictions were lifted and as a mental health provider, I was asked to see clients from all over the US. Once insurance companies decided the epidemic was over, I was required to terminate with clients that lived in states other than Oregon. I was not licensed in WA or Washington at that time. Terminating was unethical and dangerous because of the level these trauma clients were experiencing. Not only was I required to terminate, I had no referral sources for my clients. It was impossible to find a therapist who had openings in Chicago, IL or Santa Fe, NM. If I had the resources available to reach out to other therapists in other states, I would have been able to connect my clients to appropriate clinicians. If I could accept referrals for my trauma groups from different states, treatment for trauma would accelerate around the country. I would like to join a Psychologist, colleague, who is offering a support group for LGBTQ individuals who are frightened and nearly paralyzed by the current political situation. Doing this is impossible because I cannot get licensed in every state to accommodate individuals across the country who are in vital need for groups of this nature; especially transgender individuals. Please vote yes on the law that would give licensed clinical social workers the latitude to provide care in other states throughout the country.

Thank you

Linda J. Orange, MSW, LCSW