

Submitter: Paul Villaescusa  
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 Paul, and I am currently a social work student at Portland State University 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 want to become a social worker because I have a deep-seated passion for helping others and making a meaningful impact in their lives. Growing up, I witnessed the challenges faced by individuals and families in my community, and I felt a strong urge to support those who were struggling. Social work offers the opportunity to advocate for vulnerable populations, provide emotional support, and connect people with essential resources. I believe in the power of empathy and understanding, and I want to be a guiding force for those navigating difficult circumstances. By pursuing a career in social work, I hope to contribute to positive change, promote social justice, and empower individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential.

As a student preparing to enter the field of social work, I am deeply invested in ensuring that our licensure system is both modern and accessible. The passage of HB 2554 would create greater mobility for future social workers like myself, allowing us to practice in other compact states without additional barriers. This flexibility is particularly important in today's evolving workforce, where opportunities in telehealth and cross-state services are growing.

The demand for social workers continues to increase across the country, and as a soon-to-be graduate, I want to be able to provide care where it is needed most—whether that be in Oregon or other states participating in the compact. The passage of this bill would give me and my fellow students the confidence that our hard-earned degrees and licenses will allow us to serve communities without unnecessary delays or financial burdens.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2554 to support the next generation of social workers and the communities we are eager to serve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Villaescusa  
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