

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

Thank you for considering my testimony. As a licensed clinical social worker for almost 35 years in the state of Oregon (license #1994), I have developed a specialty area of care for male victims of sexual abuse/assault. There are very few practitioners focusing on this population in Oregon. An interstate compact for social workers (with rules ensuring client safety and quality care built in) would increase the opportunities for Oregon victims of sexual abuse to have more options for the specialized care they deserve by widening the choice of practitioners available in other states who may have expertise in this area. Conversely, Oregon practitioners with a specialty practice could ply their trade across a wider variety of clients allowing these Oregon practitioners more client possibilities, making a more narrow specialty practice more viable. There are countless additional reasons to support this bill and this is but one. Thank you for your time.