

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

To: Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

I fully support HB 2554 as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of Oregon licensed in 1992. I have seen many changes over the years, the most dramatic being those that occurred in response to the pandemic. Our Social Work work force is still recovering from the demands of the pandemic and the burnout it created. My specialty is working with perinatal and postpartum mental health. Clients in need of Social Worker support and mental health care often have to seek family support and even medical care out of state, creating break in care under current state law. The ability to work across state lines will increase continuity of care for Oregonians, as well as increase the number of social workers available to provide care here. Given the ranking of our current mental health care in Oregon, all steps to increase available care are critical.

I am grateful that this bill is moving forward in Oregon and believe it will attract more providers to offer services to Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Laurie Cox, LCSW