

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

Thanks for considering my testimony. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of OR, license #1851. I am writing in support of HB 2554, allowing OR to join the Social Work Licensure Compact. I have been working in Portland OR for over 30 years serving a wide variety of people, some of whom have insurance, and others whose ability to pay has ranged over the decades. My commitment to serving our community has sometimes been limited by geography. Living only 5 minutes away from the state of WA, I have had to turn people away unless they literally sit in their cars once they cross the border to do a virtual therapy appointment. It seems ridiculous to not be able to provide services to them whether they want in person or virtual because of an address problem. I believe therapists in OR should be able to do virtual therapy for people in other states, where there might be a dearth of practitioners. Having that flexibility would allow me to offer my services when a need arose, which currently is not an option.

I would also like to support providers from outside OR to be able to do therapy with Oregonians, so that people looking for therapists have more options for less waiting time, and be assured that these therapists are licensed and vetted from their respective states.

Thank you for your support.