

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

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[2/19/25]

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 Zoe Donnell, and I am a CSWA worker 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.

Like many of my colleagues, I have witnessed firsthand the growing demand for social work services in our state. Burnout is at an all-time high, and we simply do not have enough social workers to meet the needs of all Oregonians. By joining the compact, we can help address this crisis by making it easier for qualified professionals to work in Oregon, reducing barriers to licensure, and expanding the social work workforce.

I am working towards my licensure and am inspired by my colleagues in the field who have taught for equity for people like me in the field. I believe this bill is part of that equity. Even though I am early in my career, I have witnessed so much turnover in the field and the impact this has on clients and community's. I believe this bill would support both current licenced social workers and CSWAs like my self in reducing burnout, turnover and more importantly allowing the community members who are struggling to revive the fare they need.

This bill would also provide much-needed relief for existing social workers by increasing our professional mobility. Many of us have family in other states or want the flexibility to work across state lines through telehealth. HB 2554 would streamline

this process and ensure that Oregon remains a competitive and attractive place for social workers.

I strongly urge you to support this legislation so that Oregon can take a crucial step toward addressing our social work shortage and improving access to care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Zoe Donnell