

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

Jennifer Szolnoki
51 Columbia Ave
Underwood, WA 98651
gardebsopace@gmail.com
2/19/2025

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 Jennifer Szolnoki, and I am a licensed clinical social worker currently practicing in Washington. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2554, which would allow Oregon to join the Social Work Licensure Compact.

I live right on the border with Oregon in the White Salmon, WA/Hood River, OR area and I have many Oregonians who I seen in my practice as well as folks who live in one and work in the other and will have tele-health appointments with me from both states in a very fluid manner. For example, the may live in in Washington, but work in Oregon and then have an appointment form Oregon in the middle of their workday and vice versa. These citizens require a social worker that has the ease and ability to practice from in both states.

Living right on the border between two states, it is burdensome and expensive to have to maintain two state licensures in order to serve the local, rural population in my area effectively. With a lack of social workers and counselors in my rural area, the need is dire. Oregon being a part of the interstate compact would make my burden and stress less and increase the ease with which I cans serve my local population.

Oregon is a state I practice in, but it is burdensome. The current licensure process presents significant challenges both financially and administratively for out-of-state professionals like myself. The Social Work Licensure Compact would make Oregon a more attractive option to continue to practice in Oregon by allowing me to bring my skills and experience to the state without unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles. This is

especially important in a time when the demand for social work services is growing, and every state needs to ensure it has enough qualified professionals.

I urge the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 2554 and make the state more accessible to social workers from across the country. This bill will not only benefit professionals like me but also improve access to care for Oregonians in need. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Szolnoki