

Cynthia Stidd
60831 Windsor Dr
Bend, OR, 97702
cynthiab@lcswillc.org
February 19

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 Cynthia Stidd, and I am a licensed social 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.

I'm interested in social work because I am deeply passionate about helping others and making a positive impact in my community. The opportunity to support individuals and families through challenges, whether emotional, financial, or social, is something I find truly meaningful. I am driven by the idea of creating change and empowering people to overcome obstacles, ultimately helping them lead healthier, more fulfilling lives. Social work aligns with my values of compassion, justice, and equity, and I am eager to be part of a profession that promotes these ideals on a daily basis. Additionally, working as a social worker with the ability to see clients across different states provides a unique opportunity to serve diverse populations, understand a variety of needs, and contribute to systemic change on a national level. This flexibility would expand my reach and impact, allowing me to work across different communities and respond to the ever-evolving challenges people face throughout the country.

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.

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,
Cynthia Stidd, LCSW