

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

My name is Caroline Resari, 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 have been a social worker for over 20 years. I love the work because people have hope for change.

Like many of my colleagues, I have witnessed firsthand the growing demand for social work services in our state. Most of the people who call me are both surprised I call back and grateful that I have space. There are not enough social workers to help the number of people needing support. 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.

It is time that the law catches up with technology continuing the forward momentum of therapy across state lines. This is another step forward.

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,
Caroline Resari, LCSW, LICSW