

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

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair's Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lucas, and I am currently a social work student at Portland State University, scheduled to graduate this spring with my MSW. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2554, which would allow Oregon to join the Social Work Licensure Compact.

As a social work student, I am already interning at a clinic with locations in multiple states, providing mental health and case management services for low-income residents of Oregon and Washington. I am anticipating that when I graduate I will have to limit my offerings only to Oregon, or else try and attain licensure in multiple states. There is also a possibility that I will need to move to California in the next few years for personal reasons, and I would like to be able to continue to see my Oregon clients and serve the residents of this state from a telehealth capacity whenever possible.

As a student preparing to enter the field of social work, I am deeply invested in ensuring that our licensure system is both modern and accessible. The passage of HB 2554 would create greater mobility for future social workers like myself, allowing us to practice in other compact states without additional barriers. This flexibility is particularly important in today's evolving workforce, where opportunities in telehealth and cross-state services are growing.

The demand for social workers continues to increase across the country, and as a soon-to-be graduate, I want to be able to provide care where it is needed most—whether that be in Oregon or other states participating in the compact. The passage of this bill would give me and my fellow students the confidence that our hard-earned degrees and licenses will allow us to serve communities without unnecessary delays or financial burdens.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2554 to support the next generation of social workers and the communities we are eager to serve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lucas Judson