

Tara Maloney
124 SW 8th Street
Redmond, OR 97756
taramaloneycounseling@gmail.com
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 Tara Maloney, and I am a licensed clinical 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 since 2012 and work in Central Oregon. Although I mostly see clients in Deschutes County there have been multiple times that a client moves out of Oregon and would be appropriate to continue treatment if I could keep seeing them. Often times these client struggle to find another provider and/or do not want to start over and reshare their whole story. It can be very difficult and time consuming to build rapport with a new person especially considering that therapy is particularly sensitive and vulnerable. Finding a provider that a client has a good relationship is one of the key elements to having positive and successful treatment outcomes. Considering this, I believe we should remove as many barriers as possible for client to get necessary services.

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,

Tara Maloney, LCSW