

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

Mairin Fahey, MSW, LCSW  
mairinfahey.lcsw@gmail.com  
February 19th, 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 Mairin, 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 earned my MSW from Portland State University in 2021 and have worked as a clinical social worker in both mental health organizations and health care organizations. Over the last three years I have worked in health care settings and have witnessed the immense strain our healthcare system is experiencing in Oregon through and post the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare providers continue to experience burnout. This is not unique to healthcare providers.

There has been a mental health crisis in Oregon prior to the pandemic, which has only become exacerbated with additional strain on our systems during and post pandemic. Social workers are leaving the field all together and we do not have the ability to recruit or retain social workers at the capacity that is required for Oregonians needs. 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,

Mairin Fahey, MSW, LCSW