



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 20, 2025

To: Chair [Rob Nosse](#), Vice Chairs [Cyrus Javadi](#) and [Travis Nelson](#)
and members of the [House Behavioral Health and Health Care](#)

Re: [HB 3351](#) – Enacts the Interstate Counseling Compact – **Support**

Under the act, Oregon would join a compact to let counselors from other states work in Oregon. This is consistent with the League of Women Voters of Oregon position: *The League supports access for all people to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services. Further, a health program should protect the health of its most vulnerable populations, urban and rural, in order to protect the health of everyone. And the League believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by allocating medical resources to underserved areas.*

Oregon has a severe behavioral health workforce shortage. The shortage is particularly acute in rural areas. The Interstate Compact would address this need by streamlining the process for counselors from other states to practice in Oregon. By increasing the number of providers, this bill will increase access to treatment. In addition, HB 3351 will improve continuity of care for Oregonians who need to relocate.

The League supports access for all people to behavioral health services. This includes the services these licensed counselors provide. The League believes that health care services should be equitably distributed. The needs of underserved and rural areas should be adequately addressed.

We urge your Support for HB 3351.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Aller".

Stephanie Aller
Behavioral Health Portfolio