

Submitter: Allison Hajdu Paulen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2554

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February 19, 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-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Allison Hajdu-Paulen, 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 in Oregon for almost 20 years and it is an honor to support my fellow Oregonians through addressing their mental health concerns. I have worked many of these years with college students who experience interruptions to their care due to going between school in Oregon and their home state.

Conversely, I've worked with Oregon students who go on to attend a school out of state and have had to terminate our work due to licensure restrictions. It is difficult to access mental health care and the current disjointed system creates additional barriers, often at a critical juncture in progress as students have to navigate yet another transition.

This bill would provide much-needed relief for clients and for social workers by increasing our professional availability for when they or we are traveling out of state.

I strongly urge you to support this legislation so that Oregon can take a crucial step toward improving access to care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Allison