

Submitter: Robin Pfeiffer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2554

I support HB 2554 as an LCSW in private practice for over 30 years. I am a semi retired status and want to continue to provide services. To be credentialed as an MSW and then an LCSW required a degree and passing a NATIONAL EXAM each time. This standard at a national level is what drew me to pursuing this credential. Passing the national exams recognized a standard required by all graduates qualifying them for a professional career/practice in Social Work. I have always believed that this standard is sufficient for an individual to practice/work anywhere in the USA. My experience and years of continuing education are invaluable. With our mental health crisis in the USA it would be a mistake to require me to pursue a separate license if I move or choose to "semi retire " in another state. I would love the ability to continue working and pursue the next stage of my life (maybe living part time in another state) The association has it clear standards of ethics and a process to address professional standards. It is redundant to require me to "apply" for licensure in another state if in fact, I am already nationally approved. The standard is supported and checked by required CEUs and the Code of Ethics. Any client or professional LCSW can submit a complaint and it will be processed through a series of clearly defined procedures. It would make sense to require a VERY SHORT exam regarding each state's particular laws as they may differ.

I received my LCSW in Utah and moved to Oregon a few years later in the early 90's. I was required to take a 10 question exam regarding Oregon's reporting laws. That was enough!

I was "allowed" to transfer all my educational credits etc. to Oregon. If there are states that NASW believes need a more in-depth or rigorous curriculum it would truly and literally reflect National Standards and allow tremendous flexibility on all levels and increase NASW's standards nationally.

The next generation of social workers will most likely be attracted to a profession that allows more fluidity and flexibility. Please vote YES on this measure. Thank you.

Robin