

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

Bennett A. Brock
926 Anderson Lane #99
Eugene, OR 97477
ben@transponderoregon.org
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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 Ben Brock, and I am currently a social work student at Portland State University 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 was drawn to social work because it offers a unique opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and communities. I work for TransPonder, a transgender-founded and led nonprofit in Eugene, which provides support, resources, and education for the trans and gender-diverse community and our allies. This field has given me the tools to help me serve my community more effectively through a sense of empathy and social justice. I hope to create lasting change, empower individuals, and contribute to building more inclusive, compassionate communities.

As a student preparing to enter the field of social work, I am deeply invested in ensuring that our licensure system is both modern and accessible. The passage of HB 2554 would create greater mobility for future social workers like myself, allowing us to practice in other compact states without additional barriers. This flexibility is particularly important in today's evolving workforce, where opportunities in telehealth and cross-state services are growing.

The demand for social workers continues to increase across the country, and as a soon-to-be graduate, I want to be able to provide care where it is needed most—whether that be in Oregon or other states participating in the compact. The passage

of this bill would give me and my fellow students the confidence that our hard-earned degrees and licenses will allow us to serve communities without unnecessary delays or financial burdens.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2554 to support the next generation of social workers and the communities we are eager to serve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Bennett A. Brock