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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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I believe its important and necessary for any social worker who has a social work license to be able to serve any client in any state not just the one they are currently licensed in. Clients move and right now if I have a client I am counseling in Oregon who moves to another state I have to terminate our counseling relationship unless I get licensed in the state they move to .Getting another license in an additional state takes time and effort that is totally unnecessary and is a barrier to the continuity of continuing counseling with a particular client who has moved. I have recently received a number of requests form clients out of my state (Oregon) who want to become my clients and I now need to tell them I cannot take them on as a client because I am not licensed in their state. Since videp counseling continues to be a viable and oftentimes preferred counseling platform that may clients oftentimes choose for convenience, having the ability to accept counseling a client form another state would give clients an increased number of therapists to choose from to begin counseling with that may be a better fit or have a specialty that is not readily available in the state they live in. Especially in this day and age of increased stressors ie assorted communicable diseases, a change in our President, tensions/wars around the world, global warming, natural disasters, inflation among others the need to address the increased anxieties and challenges to every Americans mental health are ever increasing. There should be now more than ever a reduction in any of the barriers for any American to access counseling in these trying times nob maatter what state they live.