

Support for Licensure Compacts HB3339 (PSYPACT), HB3351 (Professional Counselors), HB2554 (Social Worker), HB2676 (Dentist and Dental Hygienist), HB3060 (PA)

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson and members of the committee: My name is Ed Diehl, State Representative for House District 17, East Salem through the majestic Santiam Canyon. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bills 3339, 3351, 2554, 2676 and 3060.

Oregon needs to be part of these compacts. The compacts are a way get qualified people to work and serving patients as soon as possible.

Interstate licensure compacts are gaining in popularity across the country. We've heard it from employers and employees alike: compact states are viewed as more desirable places to work because of the flexibility and opportunity they provide.

In Oregon, things are looking promising – just yesterday the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact passed out of the House Committee on Education. Today, you will hear about another psychologist compact, PSYPACT. If a compact works in a school setting, I'm sure it will provide benefits in the general health care setting.

We need to adapt to the modern-day workforce. Today's workforce expects to provide telehealth in some cases, to work remotely, and to have a little more flexibility in how they work. Compacts are a way for Oregon to stay competitive in a tight labor market.

On the patient side, compacts help ensure continuity of care for patients who entrust these providers with their well-being. In some situations, continuity of care would not exist without interstate compacts.

I want to point out a couple of provider testimonies online that illustrate this:

TESTIMONY 1 FROM A PROVIDER

A client recently spent a month trying to set up care for her aging and disabled mother in another state. It was a distressing time for her and yet I was not allowed under Oregon rules to provide counseling to her while she was out of state. She could not easily get services for herself as a visitor.

TESTIMONY 2 FROM ANOTHER PROVIDER

One of my clients, who had a history of trauma, admitted to me that he was unlikely to go to therapy once he'd moved away, as it was so difficult to think about "starting over" with a new therapist.

As we saw in the CSG graph a few minutes ago, many states are already in compacts. Washington is well ahead of us in joining compacts. Based on all our discussions with providers,

employers, and licensing boards, my conclusion is this: Compacts are coming to Oregon - we just need to work together and hammer out the details.

The compact administrators I've spoken to are eager to work with Oregon. I ask that the Boards stay neutral, keep an open mind. Let's discuss the concerns and the needs of our state, and figure out how to make them work.

For example, there has been long-standing concern with the non-delegation clause of the Oregon Constitution. This session we were able to bring the Council of State Governments together with our legislative counsel and find statute language to resolve this conflict. **I don't think there is a single issue or objection that we can't work through together.**

I urge you to support these licensure compact bills. Thank you.