

Submitter: Susan Bishop

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2554

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 Susan Bishop, 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 became a social worker because I demonstrated it was in my bones from the time I was a young child. My parents went to 3rd and 5th grade prospectively and were extremely judgmental and prejudice. I was always in trouble. I spent my life creating workshop's , programs and activities serving my community. I wasn't able to go to college until the age of 50 years old. My 3 daughters went with me. After 8 years of 90 hour weeks (full time work, full time school, clinical hours , Etc.). I graduated with honors. on my 58th birthday. I serve the GLBTQ population and the geriatric population. I could more if I was allowed to practice beyond Oregon.

Like many of my colleagues, I have witnessed firsthand the growing demand for social work services in our state. Burnout is at an all-time high, and we simply do not have enough social workers to meet the needs of all Oregonians. By joining the compact, we can help address this crisis by making it easier for qualified professionals to work in Oregon, reducing barriers to licensure, and expanding the social work workforce.

This bill would also provide much-needed relief for existing social workers by increasing our professional mobility. Many of us have family in other states or want the flexibility to work across state lines through telehealth. HB 2554 would streamline this process and ensure that Oregon remains a competitive and attractive place for social workers.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Bishop, LCSW