

Written Testimony in Support of HB 3351: Enacting the Interstate Counseling Compact in Oregon

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Kari Stubbert, and I am a Professional Counselor Associate practicing in Lane County. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3351, which would allow Oregon to join the Interstate Counseling Compact.

How the Counseling Compact Would Benefit my Clients and my Practice

This bill is particularly important because it would allow for continuity of care while clients are traveling (for pleasure, but also for more emergent needs such as temporarily caring for an aging family member in another state) and when college students return to another state for summer or holiday breaks. These scenarios are ones I regularly encounter in the client populations I work with in my practice. This bill would also allow for increased continuity and access to care during life transitions or when a client moves temporarily or permanently to another state.

By joining the Counseling Compact, Oregon can:

- **Expand Access to Care:** Allowing licensed counselors from other member states to practice in Oregon will increase the availability of mental health professionals, particularly in underserved and rural areas.
- **Support Military Families and Relocated Clients:** Military families and individuals who move frequently would benefit from continued access to their counselors without interruption.
- **Reduce Administrative Burdens:** The Compact will streamline the licensing process, saving time and financial resources for both practitioners and regulatory agencies.
- **Maintain High Professional Standards:** Participating states share disciplinary information to ensure the quality and safety of care provided across state lines.

As a provider, I see HB 3351 as a crucial step toward expanding access to quality care while ensuring efficiency in serving more clients. I encourage you to

support this bill to enhance Oregon's mental health system and make essential services more accessible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kari Stubbert
Professional Counselor Associate, NCC