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House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care Oregon State Legislature <u>900 Court St. NE</u> <u>Salem, OR 97301</u>

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 Dawn Fanning, and I am a licensed social worker currently practicing in Kansas. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2554, which would allow Oregon to join the Social Work Licensure Compact.

I am currently providing mental health therapy to clients through private practice, but I have also worked at the local Community Mental Health Crisis Center as well as in residential care facilities for individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses. I have completed specialized training in psychedelic-assisted therapies and have experience working with clients with histories of complex trauma and treatment-resistant depression, as well as other diagnoses. I utilize trauma-informed therapeutic modalities in order to best assist each individual client.

Oregon is a state I would love to practice in, but the current licensure process presents significant challenges for out-of-state professionals like myself. The Social Work Licensure Compact would make Oregon a more attractive option by allowing me to bring my skills and experience to the state without unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles. This is especially important in a time when the demand for social work services is growing, and every state needs to ensure it has enough qualified professionals.

I urge the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 2554 and make the state more accessible to social workers from across the country. This bill will not only benefit professionals like me but also improve access to care for Oregonians in need. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Fanning, LSCSW