

Submitter: Margaret Wolszon
On Behalf Of: HB2554
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health
Care
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: HB2554

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair's Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Margaret Wolszon, and I have been a licensed social worker in Oregon for more than 30 years.. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2554, which would allow Oregon to join the Social Work Licensure Compact.

I believe that this will benefit all those seeking mental health treatment in our State. In addition, it will benefit Oregonians who had a therapeutic relationship in the past but needed to move out of State for school, jobs or family issues. Currently these people have not been allowed to continue to work in their established relationship and have had to seek out a new therapist, causing disruptions and delays in treatment.

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,
Margaret Wolszon, LCSW