

Submitter: Amie Audirsch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4071

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Amie Elizabeth Audirsch. I live in Newberg, Oregon. I write today to encourage you to support the -1 Amendments to HB 4071, which would enact the Social Work Licensing Compact.

I am passionate about the social work licensing compact because, as a student, I feel passionate about increasing access to mental health care, I would like the opportunity to provide services in other states when needed, and I believe more clients will be served if licensure processes are made more efficient.

Social workers are the lifeblood of the behavioral health workforce. Social workers are omnipresent throughout our society, including in the government, schools, universities, social service agencies, communities, the military, health care, and mental health organizations.

Social workers are overworked and underappreciated. Unsurprisingly, we do not have anywhere near enough of them in Oregon.

Again, please support the -1 Amendments to HB 4071, which would enact the Social Work Licensing Compact, which will lessen the behavioral health workforce shortage in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Amie Elizabeth Audirsch

George Fox University Master of Social Work, expected April 2025