

Submitter: Ericka Kimball  
On Behalf Of:  
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 Ericka Kimball, 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.

As a parent of a child with a mental health disorder, it was impossible to find a qualified therapist in Oregon when we moved here in 2014. As a result, we had to continually go back to our home state so she could receive therapy and have her medication managed. This continued throughout her college years.

The compact agreement would not only expand our workforce within the state, I believe it can improve care. By joining the compact, we can help address this make it easier for those who are receiving mental health services to continue to receive services when they leave Oregon. For example, college students would greatly benefit by being able to continue to received services from their therapist when going to school out of state. The more states that join the compact, the more we can improve continuity of care for those who need mental health services.

I strongly urge you to support this legislation so that Oregon can take a crucial step toward addressing the mental health needs in our state and improving access to care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ericka Kimball, PhD, LCSW