

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Joanne C. Benson

FROM: Sandra Silbermann, LCSW-C

DATE: January 28, 2025

RE: SUPPORT – Senate Bill 174 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Madam Chair, Beidle and Distinguished Members of the Finance Committee:

I am an LCSW-C. I am writing to express my strong support for the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact), which will be introduced during the 2025 Legislative Session.

The Compact is an agreement between multiple states that allows social workers licensed in one compact member state to practice in other participating states without having to obtain separate licenses in each of those states. The Compact provides several key benefits:

Improved Access to Care: By allowing social workers to practice across state lines, the Compact enhances access to mental health services, particularly in underserved or rural areas. It also ensures that patients can continue care with the same social worker if they move to another participating state.

Addressing Workforce Shortages: The Compact helps address the shortage of mental health professionals by making it easier for qualified social workers to practice in states with high demand for services, and areas with clinician shortages.

Support for Military Families: The Compact is especially beneficial for military personnel and families, as it allows them to maintain their social work licenses when relocating between states due to service duties, avoiding delays and complications,

Increased Mobility for Social Workers: Social workers can practice across state lines in Compact member states, increasing their professional opportunities and the ability to move without the need for additional licensure.

Streamlined Processes: The Compact creates a shared system of data and standards, reducing administrative burdens for licensure boards, speeding up the application process, and ensuring state licensure standards are consistently met.

The Compact is a significant step forward for our profession. I hope you will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation to help strengthen our behavioral health workforce and improve the well-being of those we serve.

Sincerely,

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