

TO: The Honorable Joselyn Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ken Kerr & Jamila Woods

FROM: Mira Silberg, LCSW-C

DATE: January 23, 2025

RE: SUPPORT – House Bill 345- Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Madam Chair, Pena-Melnyk and Distinguished Members of the House and Government Operations Committee:

I am writing to underscore the critical importance of continuity of care for individuals navigating mental health challenges, particularly in the context of interstate mobility. The passage of Bill 345, establishing the Social Work Compact, is essential to ensuring that people do not face unnecessary disruption in their therapeutic journey when relocating to another state.

As a licensed professional, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by clients who must terminate therapy abruptly due to job relocations or life circumstances. This sudden disruption can be deeply destabilizing, forcing individuals to start over with a new provider. They must build trust, establish rapport, and recount their personal histories—often a painful and exhausting process that hinders progress.

The therapeutic relationship is a cornerstone of mental health care, built on consistency, safety, and trust. When this relationship is interrupted, the emotional and practical toll on clients is significant, particularly for those dealing with trauma, anxiety, or other complex mental health issues.

By enabling social workers to practice across state lines, the Social Work Compact would eliminate these barriers, allowing for seamless transitions and uninterrupted care. This would empower clients to focus on healing and growth rather than the administrative and emotional burden of starting over.

I urge you to pass Bill 345 and ensure that we prioritize the well-being of individuals who rely on consistent, compassionate mental health care—no matter where life takes them. Thank you for supporting this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

Mira Silberg, LCSW-C