

Kristen Humphrey
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March 12, 2024

The Honorable Chairperson Gossage
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Kansas State Legislature
State Capitol 300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: In support of HB2484 - Enacting the social work licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for social workers.

To the Honorable Members of the Legislature:

I am writing in support of the proposed interstate compact for social work licensure. I am the director of the social work program at Pittsburg State University. I have been a licensed social worker in Kansas since 1991. Like many of my colleagues, I am also licensed in Missouri. Each of the faculty in our social work program has been licensed in more than one state. We have many students who attend from neighboring states, and I sometimes hear of complications that occur with accessing services when students receive services from social workers in another state, such as having to drive across the state line to sit in a parking lot to participate in telehealth because the provider was licensed in Missouri but not Kansas. Further, social work students sometimes delay applying for licensure because they are unsure on which side of the state line they will end up working.

Obtaining full licensure in more than one state is costly and time-consuming. Anything we can do to make it easier and less costly for social workers to be licensed in multiple states will benefit clients and social workers alike. This compact would allow social workers licensed in their home state to practice in other compact states which will improve and expand access to care. Telehealth has greatly expanded in recent years, and an interstate compact will eliminate barriers and support continuity of care for clients and practitioners engaging in virtual sessions across state lines.

To expand access to services and reduce licensure barriers and costs, I ask you to support the interstate compact for social work licensure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Humphrey, Ph.D., LMSW