



THE GRIEF COUNSELOR

March 13, 2024

RE: HB 2484 Letter of Testimony

Chair Gossage, Vice Chair Erickson, Ranking Member Pettey, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Phelica Glass, and I am a Licensed Clinical Specialist Social Worker in the state of Kansas. I have been a licensed social worker since 2000 and have been practicing in private practice for the past 17 years. I support HB 2484 which would implement a social work licensure compact. I am currently licensed in Kansas and Missouri.

As a private practitioner, the intimacy of information shared with a clinician is the key to healing. As someone who specializes in grief care, matters of the heart are exposed in therapy sessions. Due to COVID's abrupt disruption of lives, there were several clients whose family situations required them to move to MO to care for loved ones. This meant that under the current laws of practice, I was unable to continue treatment, leaving these patients to choose no therapy at all or begin services with clinicians they did not know. Several chose no therapy, while others chose to pause therapy until I could gain licensure. No one should have to face a crisis and lose the trusted medical support of a mental health therapist because of logistics.

Social workers have similar licensing and educational requirements across all states, making them appropriate for a professional compact. Compacts assist in improving patients' access to quality and timely services. The financial burden of licensing multiple states also delays the continuity of patient care in critical moments. I ask that you support HB 2484.

Phelica Glass, LSCSW, LLC

Respectfully submitted,  
Phelica A. Glass, LSCSW, GSW, GCCA-C, FAAGC, COSTP, SPARC, SLC

Phelica A. Glass, LSCSW, LLC 112 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Ste 403 TOPEKA, KS 66604 785-246-7703

Phelicaglasslscsw@gmail.com