

January 17, 2024
State of Kansas
House of Representatives
House Committee

Re: **House Bill 2484** - enacting social work licensure compact
Proponent – Written Only Testimony

This testimony is to support house bill 2484 (HB2484) to enact the social work licensure compact for professional social workers. This bill will directly and positively affect my professional social work practice with clients in the state of Kansas and beyond. The social work licensure compact is designed to assist professional social workers to serve more clients in additional states when the social worker changes their state of residence, or when their potential client resides in a different state. This happens with a high degree of frequency especially when a metropolitan city area crosses state lines such as Kansas City, where I reside and practice. Historically I have proactively ensured my ability to serve clients in both the great state of Kansas and the state of Missouri through applying for and maintaining professional social work licensure in both states. If this compact is enacted, I would be able to utilize the licensure compact instead, and not have to pay for 2 separate professional licenses. This will save me time, money, and the need to fully complete the licensure process in 2 separate states.

In addition, the number of clients seeking services via telehealth or other online opportunities is increasing and is likely to continue to grow in number. To serve clients via telehealth, I would be required to have a social work professional license in the state in which the client resides. The social work licensure compact would enable me to serve clients in all the states participating in the compact without purchasing an additional social work license. This provides greater opportunities for clients who are seeking and desperately needing social work services. It is especially significant for clients who meet the criteria for/suffer from unique diagnoses that fewer professionals are competent to provide services for. This includes but it is not limited to eating disorders, substance use disorders, trauma disorders, military members, and many others. Oftentimes there is a shortage of professional social workers in that clients' residential state who may serve them either in person or via telehealth. The licensure compact will broaden each client's ability to seek and participate in the services that they so desperately need. Please act to further the progress of this bill and vote to pass it during this legislative session to better serve your constituents who are professional social workers or who seek social work services Kansas.

Rhonda Weimer, LCSW, LCSW
professionally licensed in both Kansas and Missouri since 1993
weimerhonda@gmail.com

816-510-3463