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SUSAN RUIZ
23RD DISTRICT

March 13, 2024

To: Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
From: Rep Susan Ruiz
RE: HB2484 Proponent Oral In-Person Testimony

Chairwoman Gossage, Vice Chair Erickson, Ranking Member Petty and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB2484,

This bill will help regulated social workers at all three levels provide services to clients in every state that joins the compact. There are 24 states with pending legislation and 3 states that have enacted the compact. Social workers would be able to continue to see their clients if they relocate to a compact state. As you know military families are reassigned often and they would especially benefit from this compact. The compact will also benefit military members and/or their spouses to keep their state license and work in the compact state without all the barriers experienced when applying for a single-state license every time they move to another state.

The multi-state license will benefit licensing authorities by being able to access rapid information on licensees and disciplinary actions and it preserves state sovereignty.

According to the bill's fiscal note, it is unknown how many social workers who have Kansas as their home-state would wish to move to a multi-state license. Some of the social workers might wait until their current license expires and then change to the multi-state license. There are over 8 thousand licensed social workers in Kansas. Social Workers pay for the privilege to be licensed. The BSRB has voiced concerns regarding the potential loss of revenue once social workers who have reciprocity in KS start applying for a multi-state license out of their home-state. However, it is also possible that social workers will wait until license renewal to apply for the multi-state license. This means that a potential loss of revenue might not happen all at once and could be offset by the extra \$25.00 fee to obtain the multi-state license. Social workers renew their license every 2 years.

Thank you for your attention and I ask you to pass HB2484 favorably for passage.

Rep Susan Ruiz
District #23