

January 18, 2024

RE: HB 2484 Letter of Testimony

Chair Representative Landwehr and House Committee on Health & Human Services
Members:

My name is Angelique (Gigi) Tsontos, and I am a Licensed Clinical Specialist Social Worker in the state of Kansas. I have been a licensed social worker since 2012 and have been practicing in private practice for the past 10 years, simultaneously working in behavioral health organizations and nonprofits. I've practiced social work in some capacity since 1999.. I support HB 2484 which would implement a social work licensure compact. I am currently licensed in Kansas and California

As a practitioner, I have seen firsthand the need for continuity of care for clients moving between states. In this age, people are mobile, jobs, family, and personal life move them. Recently, I worked with a military mom and wife who was moved abruptly when her spouse was deployed. She needed the support of family and friends instead of life on the base. These moves challenges were compounded when she learned that our sessions would need to be transitioned as I was not currently licensed in her new home state.

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.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
Gigi Tsontos, LCSW, MPA, ACC