

January 16th, 2024

RE: HB 2484: Written Testimony Only Proponent

Dear Chair Landwehr and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Ali Aeschliman, and I am a student of social work, seeking a master's degree in social work from Fort Hays State University. I have spent almost my entire adult career in social services that include crisis, case management, and service coordination to adults throughout 14 counties in Kansas, and currently provide mental health, housing, and other resources.

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2484 that would enact the social work licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges. Following the COVID pandemic, the limited access to providers was highlighted by the shortage of professional social workers. By enacting this bill, public access to seek and participate in therapeutic services would increase. The licensure compact would allow a significantly larger portion of the population to gain access to social work services that are limited or difficult to access in many areas. The licensing and educational requirements for professional social workers are similar across all states, which makes Kansas appropriate for a professional compact. As a student, I understand that licensure processing may be delayed, and temporary licensure is only available in some states. As a professional, this will create additional barriers to treatment that could be alleviated through the passage of the interstate compact.

Please take action to further the progression of this bill to pass it during this legislative session to better serve your constituents that are professional social workers or are involved in social work services in Kansas.

Ali Aeschliman

MSW Student

Fort Hays State University