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Douglas County Resident

Proponent Testimony- HB 2484 -Written Only Testimony

To Chairperson Gossage and Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.

Thank you for reading my written statement, this will be a written only statement. I am a proponent of house bill 2484, that enacts the social work licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for social workers.

My name is Lisa Potter, I am an LCSW, and I have been a social worker in Kansas for the last 13 years. I currently work as a therapist in Lawrence, Kansas at the community mental health center. I have a license in Kansas, I can only see clients who are physically located in Kansas. I work in Lawrence, Kansas which is fairly close to the Missouri line. I have had clients that had to end services because they have moved over the state line. Starting and stopping mental health services is very disruptive to people getting well. As a Kansas social worker, it would greatly benefit myself, my profession, and my clients if this bill would pass.

Recently, I was working directly with a client that was housing insecure and they struggled to have their own place. They were staying with friends and family between Lawrence and Kansas City, Missouri. They would move between the two places frequently and their services were greatly impacted because I could not provide therapy to them when they were in Missouri. This client was accessing telehealth therapy almost the entire time we were working together so we could have continued to utilize telehealth however my Kansas license would not allow me to provide clinical services to them when they were in Missouri. The client needed therapy and ended up losing me as a therapist because they could not be sure where they would be from week to week, either Kansas or Missouri. This client also struggled to find a new therapist that could provide them the care that they needed.

In summary, with this new interstate compact, I can continue to meet with clients in this same scenario, this would allow for their services to no longer be disrupted and allow me to provide continuity of care which my social work ethics highlights. Please support this bill to improve the mental health of Kansans and to support the professional social workers in Kansas.

Thank you!

Lisa E. Potter, LCSW