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# PAUL TITTL

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 25<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Committee on  
Assembly Bill 382  
September 6, 2023

First of all, thank you Chairman Sortwell and members of the committee for allowing me to testify before you today concerning Assembly Bill 382 relating to ratification of a Social Worker Licensure Compact.

In the last few sessions we have seen the creation of licensing compacts enabling providers in various disciplines to operate more easily across state lines. These include physicians; nurses; advanced practice registered nurses; EMTs; physical therapists; psychologists; audiology and speech-language pathologists; as well as occupational therapists and counselors. It's time to add social workers as well.

State participation in the Compact provides several benefits. For example, the compact promotes unity of care when social workers or clients relocate. If a Wisconsin resident has developed a close relationship with a social worker over a period of time and then goes off to college in another state, current law would not permit the social worker to counsel the student while away from Wisconsin, unless the social worker was also licensed in that state.

However, under the compact the relationship could continue, because if that state were part of the compact it would not require the social worker to have a separate license in that state.

Similarly, as you know, the mental health needs around the state are great, but the number of professionals able to provide help is not spread evenly throughout the state. As a result, people living in rural areas in the Northwest of the state may find a shortage of social workers. However, there may be social workers across the Minnesota/Wisconsin border who could provide services in Wisconsin if both states were part of the compact.

The addendum (below) lists further benefits of this legislation. Other speakers can address them. In the meantime, I would be happy to take any questions you might have. Thanks for consideration of this bill.

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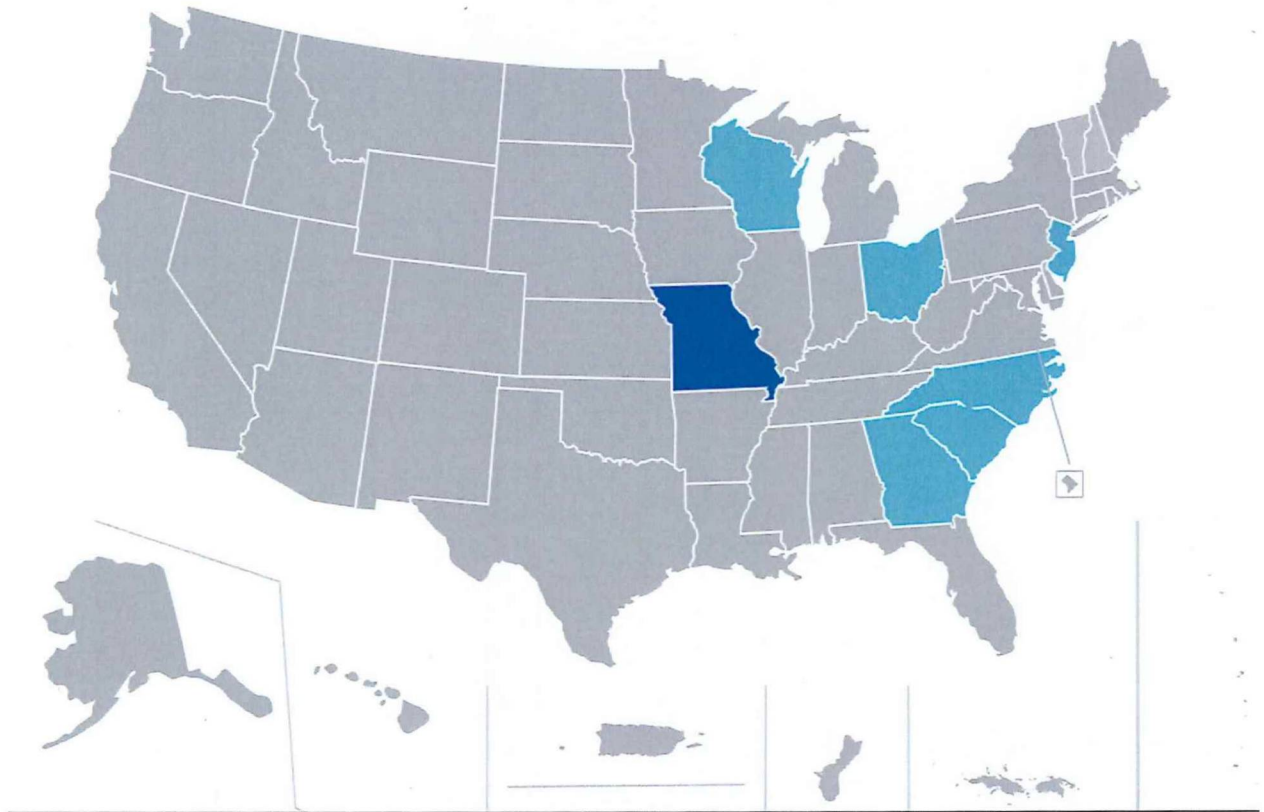
## Addendum

State participation in the Compact provides several benefits:

- Eliminates the need for social workers to hold licenses in multiple states
- Facilitates telehealth
- Supports workforce needs across states
- Streamlines licensing administration for both licensing boards and licensed social workers
- Promotes continuity of care when social workers or clients relocate
- Allows social workers to expand services into new areas
- Promotes uniformity of licensing standards

Social Workers Licensure Compact  
Legislative Action  
September 6, 2023

- Legislation Not Introduced
- Legislation Pending
- Legislation Enacted





# ROB STAFSHOLT

STATE SENATOR • 10<sup>th</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

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Sen.Stafsholt@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**TO:** Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
**FROM:** Senator Rob Stafsholt  
**DATE:** September 6th, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Testimony in Favor of Assembly Bill 382.

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Thank you Chairman Sortwell and members of the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform for allowing me to submit testimony in favor of Assembly Bill 382.

Wisconsin is facing a severe shortage of social workers, and the legal restrictions under current law impede their ability to deliver care to those in need.

This bill enters Wisconsin into the Social Work Licensure Compact, which provides the opportunity for a social worker to be practice in other compact states without needing additional red tape and licensure.

Participation in the Compact provides multiple other benefits, including addressing workforce shortages, facilitating telehealth, streamlining the licensing process for both the boards and the social workers, encouraging continuity of care when social workers or clients relocate, and others.

Many other professions have licensure compacts to ease these burdens, including physicians, nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, EMTs, physical therapists, psychologists, audiology and speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and counselors. Adding social workers to this list is a common sense way to streamline this process.

Thank you, members. I ask for your support and would be happy to meet with you to address any concerns or answer any questions about this bill.

## TESTIMONY PROVIDED BY NASW WI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARC HERSTAND IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 382, THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT BILL

Chairperson Sortwell and members of the Assembly Regulatory Licensing Reform Committee.

My name is Marc Herstand, I have served as the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter for close to 31 years.

I am pleased to speak in support of Assembly Bill 382, the Social Work Licensure Compact bill. The need for AB 382 became extremely evident to me during the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 ushered in universal usage of tele-mental health. Initially, the only way that psychotherapy could take place at the beginning of the pandemic, tele-mental health has continued to be a large part of the practice of most clinical social workers. It has enabled clients with transportation, childcare, health, financial or other barriers to get mental health treatment. It has also enabled clients with language barriers-whether it be Spanish, Hmong, French, American Sign Language or the many other languages spoken in our state to receive services they can understand. The Covid-19 pandemic also resulted in increased mobility of college students when their schools closed and for other Wisconsin residents who began working remotely. Unfortunately, college students and other residents who were receiving mental health services and moved out of state temporarily, could often not continue to receive mental health services from their Wisconsin therapists. States generally require a therapist to be licensed in the state where the clients reside in order to provide services. This has a very negative impact on clients who have developed trusting relationships with their therapist and do not want to start all over with a new therapist.

The Social Work Licensure Compact will solve this problem by allowing clinical social workers to serve clients in any state participating in the Compact..

The other main advantage I see to the Social Work Licensure Compact is that it tremendously eases the licensure process for social workers moving to Wisconsin. Over the last several years, I have spoken with scores of Licensed Clinical Social Workers with decades of experience providing mental health therapy who have had tremendous difficulty getting licensed in Wisconsin. Because of this difficulty getting licensed, I have spoken with social workers who have given up on obtaining licensure here. This is at a time of a tremendous shortage of mental health providers statewide.

Why is it so difficult to get licensed here? Because of the way the law is written, regardless of how many decades of experience a licensee might bring from another state, they still need to get a form filled out by the supervisor of their initial 3,000 hours of supervised practice after graduate school and to get the syllabus for a course they may have taken decades ago. In many cases, these supervisors are not even alive anymore and sometimes the agencies may have closed. The social work program may not be able to find a syllabus for a course from 20, 30 or 40 years ago. The Social Work Licensure Compact would eliminate these unnecessary, extremely burdensome and often impossible to accomplish requirements. Once the Compact is implemented nationwide, social workers moving to Wisconsin would simply go through a background check, take the open-book state jurisprudence exam and then get licensed.

Full implementation of the Social Work Licensure Compact will take time as each state has to pass the legislation. Once seven states have passed the bill, these states can then establish the Compact Commission to set the national

ground rules for the Compact. I am hoping that Wisconsin will be among the initial seven states passing the Social Work Compact.

Thanks for the opportunity to testify on the Social Work Licensure Compact. I am happy to answer any questions.

Marc Herstand, MSW CISW  
Executive Director

National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter  
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Mherstand.naswwi@socialworkers.org



August 31, 2023

Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
Wisconsin State Capitol, 2 East Main Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
Via e-mail: [Zach.Pfaffenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Zach.Pfaffenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov)

RE: Support for AB382, Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Representative Sortwell and Regulatory Licensing Reform Committee Members:

Fresenius Medical Care operates 44 dialysis facilities in Wisconsin and provides life-sustaining dialysis treatments to over 2,900 patients with kidney failure, cared for by approximately 600 professional staff. We support AB382 which would implement a social worker licensure compact. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires every person receiving dialysis to receive social work services from a Masters level licensed social worker. Because our company operates in many states, we are able to move our social workers to areas of greatest need quickly as circumstances may require. 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. During COVID-19, the issue of access to care became particularly acute. When COVID-19 surges occurred, the ability to bring in qualified out-of-state health professionals quickly was critical for outpatient dialysis facilities to provide life-sustaining treatments for patients. This included social workers, dietitians, nurses, and our patient care technicians traveling to other states to help with COVID-19 surges. Many of our social workers also provided, and continue to provide, telehealth services. We appreciate the recognition of telehealth being a vital service in the Compact legislation. While temporary licenses may be available in some states, they are not a permanent fix to emergency situations. And, often there is a backlog in licensure processing.

For these reasons, we ask you to support AB382.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Funk Schrag".

Wendy Funk Schrag, LMSW, ACSW  
Vice President State Government Affairs  
316.841.5245  
[wendy.schrag@freseniusmedicalcare.com](mailto:wendy.schrag@freseniusmedicalcare.com)



CSG Testimony on AB 382 – Social Work Licensure Compact  
Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
September 6, 2023

Mathew Shafer, The Council of State Governments, [Matthew.shafer@csg.org](mailto:Matthew.shafer@csg.org)

Chair Sortwell and members of the committee, I would like to express my appreciation for your consideration of the Social Work Licensure Compact. My name is Matt Shafer with The Council of State Governments. My written testimony is meant to provide background educational information on the compact.

The Council of State Governments is a nonpartisan membership association for elected and appointed state government officials from all three branches. CSG, through its National Center for Interstate Compacts, has facilitated the development process for all fifteen of the active occupational licensing compacts including the five that Wisconsin is a member of (medicine, nursing, psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy). Wisconsin is also a member of 30 other interstate compacts unrelated to professional licensing.

There are approximately 500,000 licensed social workers in the United States. Despite the high demand for social work services, licensees are currently limited to providing services within state borders. The Social Work Licensure Compact seeks to provide licensees with opportunities for multistate practice, support relocating practitioners, and foster workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens.

AB 382 would make Wisconsin a member of the Social Work Licensure Compact. The compact was created through a cooperative agreement between the Department of Defense and The Council of State Governments. For the past 18 months, CSG has been developing the compact language with stakeholders within the profession from the Association of Social Work Boards, National Association of Social Workers, Clinical Social Work Association, social work regulatory boards, the social work education community, and others. The compact language was finalized in February 2023.

The Compact will enable social workers to obtain a multistate license issued by their home state to practice in other states that join the compact, rather than get an individual license in every state in which they want to practice. Like the compact for a driver's license, each compact member state agrees to mutually recognize the practitioner licenses issued by every other member state.





The Social Work Licensure Compact is similar in form and function to the five occupational licensing compacts that Wisconsin is already a member of. A social worker must hold an active, unencumbered license in their home state to be eligible for a multistate license. Licensees must also pass a background check and meet other eligibility requirements related to education and examinations.

From a regulatory perspective, the Compact preserves the authority of each compact member state to protect public health and safety through the existing state regulatory structure. A licensee practicing under a multistate license must abide by the laws, regulations and rules that govern the practice of social work in the state in which they are located. The Wisconsin Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board has jurisdiction over anyone practicing in Wisconsin under a multistate license.

The Social Work Licensure Compact also benefits military families. If a military family gets assigned to a new duty station in a compact member state, the service member or their spouse can continue to work with their current multistate license.

Like all of the other occupational licensing compacts, the Social Work Licensure Compact will be governed by a commission made up of the member states. The delegate will be a representative from the social work section of Wisconsin's Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board.

The compact will come into effect once it's enacted by seven states. The compact is brand new so there is currently only one member state (Missouri). However, there are states with legislation still pending this session (Ohio and New Jersey), and many states interested in introducing the bill in 2024. If enacted, Wisconsin would have a seat at the table when the compact commission has its first meeting to establish the compact's rules and bylaws.

Overall, the Social Work Licensure Compact will increase license portability for social work professionals in Wisconsin, support military families, and improve access to social work services for Wisconsin residents, while maintaining the current system of state licensure. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among participating states, the Social Work Licensure Compact will allow participating state regulatory entities to better protect the public. I understand that increasing access to mental health providers is a key issue facing states, and we believe the compact provides one solution that helps alleviate that problem. With that I will conclude my remarks and stand for questions.

August 30, 2023

Representative Shae Sortwell

Chair, Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform

WI State Capitol

Room 214 North State Capitol

Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Sortwell:

Thank you for holding a legislative hearing on the Social Work Compact on September 6. Unfortunately, I cannot be there to testify. I am a LCSW running a psychotherapy business. I am a member of NASW (National Association of Social Workers) and CSWA (Clinical Social Work Association).

As a social worker who has lived in multiple states, the compact would have allowed me to practice social work in all member states. This may have both helped me choose social work jobs in GA where I lived only for a year and reduced the burden on me when I returned to Wisconsin from North Carolina.

As a social worker who has been doing telehealth since 2014, a compact would have allowed me to see my clients when they traveled to take care of loved ones out of state or college students who went home for breaks. During the pandemic this would have been helpful for the same reasons.

The compact was a joint effort between the Department of Defense and the Council on State Governments. As a social worker who works with military personnel and their families, I support the reason DOD took action to make this compact happen. Women are largely represented in the social work profession. They often move with their military partners. By having a compact, we are honoring the sacrifices made by military families by making their burdens easier and less stressful.

The compact also allows people in remote or rural areas to be served by experienced social workers and therapists who have LCSW without the concern that their privacy will be upended by someone who saw their car in the parking lot of the local clinic.

There are no downsides to this Compact as it will serve to strengthen licensing laws. I hope that the Committee will agree.

Sincerely,

*Electronically signed on 8-30-23 by Barbara Perkins LCSW*

Barbara Perkins, LCSW

Affirmed Family Psychotherapy LLC 2961 Yarmouth Greenway Dr, Suite 2, Fitchburg, WI 53711

Kimberly Howard MSW, CAPSW

[Khoward9713@gmail.com](mailto:Khoward9713@gmail.com)

8/31/2023

Shae Sortwell, Chair, Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform

[Rep.Sortwell@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Sortwell@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Subject: Please support, Assembly Bill 382, the Social Work Licensure Compact bill

Dear Representative, Sortwell

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am writing to express my strong support for the creation and implementation of a Social Work Compact in our state. As a Certified Advanced Practice Social Worker and a board member of the National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter and someone who deeply values the well-being of our community, I believe that establishing a Social Work Compact is essential, especially in light of the ongoing mental health crisis.

Our nation is currently grappling with a severe mental health crisis that has been exacerbated by the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The strain on individuals' mental well-being is palpable, and the demand for mental health services has never been higher. In these trying times, social workers play a pivotal role in providing critical support to those struggling with mental health issues.

A Social Work Compact would significantly enhance our state's capacity to respond to this crisis effectively. The ability for licensed social workers to practice across state lines would allow us to tap into a wider pool of professionals with specialized expertise in mental health. This would not only help alleviate the burden on our local resources but also ensure that individuals in need have timely access to qualified mental health professionals.

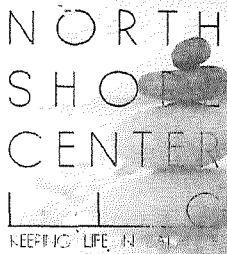
Furthermore, a compact would encourage social workers with expertise in mental health to move to areas with greater demand, thereby distributing essential services more evenly and reducing disparities in access to care. As we work towards addressing the mental health crisis, it's crucial that we have a flexible and efficient system in place to provide comprehensive support to all who require it.

I urge you to consider the urgency of this matter and the invaluable role that a Social Work Compact could play in addressing our state's mental health challenges. By supporting the creation of a compact, you would be advocating for a solution that not only enhances the mobility and professionalism of social workers but also directly contributes to the well-being of our citizens during this trying time.

Thank you for your dedication to serving our community. I look forward to your positive response and your commitment to advancing the cause of mental health through the establishment of a Social Work Compact.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Howard MSW, CAPSW



Jenny Strom, MA, LPC - Clinic Director  
Craig L. Abrams, Ph.D.  
Judy Blumenfeld, Ph.D.  
Elliot Broch, Ph.D.  
Terry Carr, LCSW, LSSW  
Chelsea Gilbertson, LCSW  
Julie Housiaux Caldwell, Psy.D.  
Dina Gruber, LMT, AMTA  
Donna M. Laughrin, Ph.D.  
Michael A. Mazius, Ph.D.  
Angela Miller, LPC  
Maria Morales - Tutor  
Robert F. Newby, Ph.D., ABPP-CN  
Melissa Nelson, LPC, Ph.D.

Jennifer G. O'Brien, LPC  
Laurie B. Pasch, LCSW, LMFT, B.C.D.  
Nettie Palay, MSN, APNP, PMHNP-BC, PNP-BC, PMHS-BC, LMT-BC  
Caroline Palmer M.D.  
Terri Peckerman-Stein, LCSW, MSW  
Kimberly Rennie, Ph.D.  
Sammi Schams, LPC, SAC, NCC  
Caroline Schmidt, Ph.D.  
Amy Schwabe, LPC  
Nathanael Schwarz, Ph.D.  
Nina Sebastian Bredehorn, MSN, APNP, CPNP, PMHS  
Anne Spahr, Ph.D.  
Patricia Suhr, LCSW  
Cheryl Ward, MSM, CALP

August 31, 2023

To Whom it May Concern to Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform

Regarding: SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT

My name is Laurie Pasch, and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who provides psychotherapy for children, adolescents, young adults and adults. I was at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Psychiatry Center for eight years and have been in private practice in Milwaukee for 41 years. I am writing today because I unfortunately will not be able to be in Madison to give testimony at the hearing on Wednesday, September 6. And I wanted to at least have a chance to express my strong support for this Social Work Licensure Compact as I am one of the people who actually sees the impact on our clients as they move to a new state with the loss of a trusted support.

There are instances where people may try multiple therapists until they finally find a fit where they truly feel they can safely share. I have had many of those clients over the almost 50 years that I have been working. And then a circumstance in their lives has necessitated a move. We may diligently try to find resources and a new therapist for them in their new city. But how do we know who that therapist actually is or what their skill level might be. During Covid, and our ability to utilize telementalhealth, I was able to be there for clients during these significant changes. Part of our code of ethics as mental health practitioners is to be there for our clients and to provide care that is in their best interest. I don't believe it is "best interest" when we have to abandon someone at the moments in time when they are having a transition that would be causing them significant increase of stress, depression, anxiety and vulnerability. Since our return to pre-Covid laws, in terms of being able to do therapy across state lines, I am feeling the impact of this inability to be to provide consistency of care and that is really frustrating. Our client's question "is this really in our best interest. I finally found someone I can really share with and now I have to start all over again trying to find someone new and at a time in my life that is already difficult?"

I had a 24-year-old man in my practice that I started to see when he was 17. He was severely depressed and barely left his bedroom or house. Within the therapy he was able to say out loud that he was gay, and that he was incredibly frightened of how he was going to move forward with his life. Together, we built his sense of self as well as strategies and tools of how he could come out as a gay man, go away to college and move forward with an optimistic future. He started at Marquette University and continued to struggle. Ultimately, he found a program that was something he was excited about but it was in California which meant that we could no longer see each other. During Covid we could reconnect. We, in good faith, have been looking for resources and a new therapist in California. He has not yet found that connection, and I am not able to see him. I feel that I am abandoning him at a time when he is finally getting hopes for his future.

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I had been seeing a 16-year-old girl, whose father died while she was in middle school. Besides her grief, she was bullied and struggled with peer relationships. She has been depressed, with self-harm, and suicidal ideation. In the midst of all this, her mother lost her job and her new job located her in Chicago. She tried to adjust to the new school and making new friends, but ultimately ended up inpatient after a suicide attempt. The Mother calls me frequently, overwhelmed with anxiety and worry. We found a therapist for the teenager, but not yet for the Mom. The mom wonders why I cannot continue to support her since I have been with the family since the beginning of their trauma. Those of us in the field, who are actually working with the individuals and families, are the ones who are seeing their emotional pain and struggle. We are asking to provide our clients continuity of care. It is in their best interest. That is why I am desperately asking all of you to please consider our clients. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Berg Pasch, LCSW, LMFT, DCSW  
Psychotherapist

**From:** [Jeb Ebben](#)  
**To:** [Rep.Sortwell](#); [Rep.Sinicki](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony on Behalf of Assembly Bill 382 for the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 4:37:42 PM

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Hello Representatives Sortwell and Sinicki,

I am a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Wisconsin. I work for University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's counseling services, providing psychotherapy and counseling services to college students. I would like to register my support of the social work compact.

The population I work with would particularly benefit from such a regulatory reform. Many students live in Wisconsin only during the school year, returning home in other states during winter break and over the summer. As you might imagine, this provides many challenges for continuity of care. Since I am only licensed in the state of Wisconsin, we are not able to provide telehealth services so we instead look for stop-gap measures or, most often, the student goes without care until they return to school.

This is less than ideal. The world is ever-changing and increasingly interconnected; current models of licensing are unable to keep pace with technology and demands of such interconnectedness. The COVID-19 crisis opened many doors to make telehealth more accessible, but it is important that we use this momentum to continue moving forward.

The licensure compact will allow social workers in Wisconsin to continue providing care to vulnerable clients who, for many reasons, may not always be physically located in Wisconsin's geographical borders. I ask that you please support the compact and the important work it does in bridging previously unbridgeable gaps.

With gratitude,

Jeb Ebben, MSW, LCSW  
Milwaukee, WI

**From:** [Miranda Guehlstorf](#)  
**To:** [Rep.Sortwell](#)  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 382  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 30, 2023 1:20:40 PM

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Hello,

I am reaching out to you to support and encourage Assembly Bill 382, the Social Work Licensure Compact. I am a social worker and therapist in the state of Wisconsin at this time and this bill would allow social workers to provide services across state lines, enhance the mobility of social workers, improve access to professional social work services, improve continuity of care when clients travel or relocate, support relocating military spouses and families, enhance public safety and create a data system of information about licensees, including license status, investigative information and adverse actions.

I believe this bill holds so much purpose and meaning. Please consider this when this bill comes to the hearing on September 6th.

Thank you,

Miranda Guehlstorf, MSW, APSW, SAC-IT.



**From:** [Jeanne Clark](#)  
**To:** [Rep.Sortwell](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Social Work Compact hearing, Sept. 6th  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 30, 2023 3:16:46 PM

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Dear Rep. Sortwell,

I am writing in support of the Social Work interstate compact. I am not able to attend the meeting because my psychotherapy practice is simply too busy. Currently I am calling people who got on my waiting list in October. I am in NW WI with an office in Spooner. This is a seriously under served area.

How could the Interstate Compact help? By making it easier for social workers from other states to see clients in my area, many more people could receive services. Currently I work exclusively using teletherapy and have found no diminishment in quality of care. I am nearing retirement age and can not work the number of hours I could when I was just out of school. We need help up here. I used to work outside of Chicago. Where I worked there were scores of therapists and the big problem was finding enough clients. Up here we NEED therapists. An interstate compact could relieve underserved areas by allowing areas who have a higher therapist per population rate serve under served areas.

In addition, I sometimes have clients who move to a new state. It is very disruptive to therapy to have to find a new therapist. Having an interstate compact would mean clients who had to move, such as service members and others, have continuity of care.

Currently I'm licensed in 4 states. Having to coordinate CEU credits and credentialing is time consuming and expensive. it takes away from client care. Social workers who are licensed in one state, especially those who are experienced have all the skills they need to work with clients in another state. Social workers provide 60% of mental and behavioral health care in the US. Making it easier for them to move and also to provide services in other states would be a great help for the massive behavioral and mental health needs our country is facing.

It would make my life a lot easier. It would help the people of Wisconsin. It would help the opioid crisis, the suicide rate, addictions, and mental health needs. It's the right thing to do!

Jeanne Clark, LCSW, DSW  
Spooner, WI

**From:** [Hope Imaizumi](#)  
**To:** [Rep.Sortwell](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony on Behalf of Assembly Bill 382 for the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
**Date:** Friday, September 1, 2023 11:15:18 AM

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To Representative Sortwell and the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Behalf of Assembly Bill 382.

As a constituent and a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), I support Assembly Bill 382, the Social Work Licensure Compact bill. This bill would increase public access to social work services. It would also tremendously simplify the process of obtaining licensure for social workers moving to Wisconsin, simultaneously addressing workforce shortages.

I currently hold a clinical social work license in both Michigan and Wisconsin. I have been dedicated to serving the disabled population in schools, therapeutic settings, and the community for over 10 years. In 2021, my family moved to Wisconsin for my husband's job. I had completed all the necessary requirements to apply for a social work license in Wisconsin, so I intended to continue my career here.

I submitted my initial application for a Wisconsin social work license in August of 2021. Over the next year and a half, I spent hours at the Department of Safety and Professional Services office, submitted additional paperwork and applications when indicated, contacted my representatives and requested the support of the National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter, to advocate for my application to be found and reviewed. I finally obtained my Wisconsin LCSW in February of 2023. It should not be this time consuming and confusing to apply for an equivalent license in another state.

Please pass this bill so that more qualified social workers can live in Wisconsin and serve our residents without overly burdensome hurdles.

Sincerely,

Hope Imaizumi, LCSW  
3314 Thorp St.  
Apt. 102  
Madison, WI 53714

**From:** [noreen salzman](#)  
**To:** [Rep.Sortwell](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Assembly Bill 382  
**Date:** Saturday, September 2, 2023 10:32:18 PM

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As a Director of a Counseling agency in mid-state Wisconsin, and having held a Social Work clinical license since 2001, I am in strong support of the passing of this bill to allow an interstate compact for the field of Social Work. As an employer and practitioner, I have seen (especially since COVID) the need for individuals to have access to quality therapists, or continue a relationship with their therapist when they move to a different state. Here are scenarios which come up frequently in which Independent Clinical Social Workers are unable to serve clients:

- When a student attends a college (even in Michigan, Illinois, or Minnesota). Students who elect to continue their relationship with their therapist have to be seen either on breaks or when they can schedule a time in Wisconsin, their home state. Much more effective service would be to serve this students DURING the course of their adjustment to an away-college and the school- associated stress in the course of the semester
- When a military member, who has established a positive and close therapeutic connection with a therapist, moves to another state for training or to a new base
- When agencies are developing contracts to assist businesses with counseling contracts, and that business has satellites in other states. Many progressive businesses are looking at or developing models to allow employees to be seen for counseling services as part of their benefit package. Having therapists be available to be seen via telehealth for company satellites where there is inadequate mental health therapy coverage would be immensely helpful to company employees.

Thank you so much for allowing people who have been the field as long as I to be offered a voice in this process. Bill 382 is a very positive and progressive step in meeting the mental health needs of our country in the practice of Social Work.

Noreen Salzman MSW LCSW  
The Centre for Well-Being, Inc  
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Wausau, WI 54403  
Ph: 715-573-6789  
Business: 715-848-5022  
Fax: 1-888-778-6750

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**From:** [Heidi Pritzl](#)  
**To:** [Rep.Sortwell](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony on Behalf of Assembly Bill 382 for the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform.  
**Date:** Monday, September 4, 2023 7:51:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Good Evening, Representative Sortwell-

I am a Licensed Clinic Social Worker for a healthcare organization in Northern Wisconsin, and a board member of National Association of Social Workers (NASW)- Wisconsin in support of the Social Workers licensure compact legislation, assembly bill 382.

This bill will facilitate multistate practice among member states and reduce the barriers to license portability. This compact will enable regulated social workers with bachelor's, master's, and clinical licenses to serve clients in every state that joins the compact, rather than going through the licensure process in every state where they want to practice, which can be quite a lengthy process. I have seen co-workers transferring from states where they have already practiced as a Social Worker/Therapist and waiting months in their office to see patients due to the licensing process, which has resulted in longer waitlist times in northern Wisconsin.

This bill will help to eliminate barriers in what the surgeon general now calls a "Mental Health Pandemic." Bill 382 will enhance the mobility of social workers, improve access to professional social work services, improve continuity of care when clients travel or relocate, provide support to relocating military spouses and families, enhance public safety, create a data system of information about licensees including license status, and investigative information and adverse actions.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration to passing bill 382, Northern Wisconsin patients/residents will thank-you, as they would see access to care improve, variation of appointment availability to meet their needs, in addition to more workers considering practice in our state due to decrease time in waiting for licensure and ability to practice in other joining states.

Thank-you for your consideration-

**Heidi Pritzl; LCSW**

Psychotherapist- Suicide Prevention Specialist – Aspirus Koller Behavioral Health  
NASW-WI Board Member for the Northern region of Wisconsin

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**From:** [Paul Perales](#)  
**To:** [Rep.Sortwell](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony on Behalf of Assembly Bill 382 for the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:15:20 PM

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Hi Representative Sortwell. As a licensed clinical social worker for the past ten years in WI I am writing in support of the interstate licensure compact, Bill 382. It will be a great recruiting tool for open positions in the state to better serve the people in our communities. Please reach out if you have any questions that you would like a social worker opinion, and I would be happy to talk further.

Regards,  
Paul

Paul Perales, MSW, LCSW, SAC-IT  
[920-217-6956](tel:920-217-6956)

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

**From:** [Lynn Groeschel](#)  
**To:** [Rep.Sortwell](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony on behalf of Assembly Bill 382 further Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 12:47:47 PM

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Representative Sortwell,  
My name is Lynn S. Groeschel and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and have been in practice in Wisconsin for 39 years. I currently own and provide psychotherapy through Redstone Counseling, LLC.

I believe it would be beneficial not only to the citizens of Wisconsin but to underserved people in other states if Wisconsin approved the interstate compact. The most common problem is when people travel out of state for employment, military service, vacation or education. Patients often regret the necessity of switching health care providers along with a move or going without while temporarily out of state. There are people who contact me from other states seeking treatment because they cannot access it in their own state. The same thing occurs in Wisconsin frequently, people do not always have access to transportation so Telehealth services are vital to provide Mental Health and AODA treatment in the future. I shall look forward to hearing from you soon regarding this legislation.

Regards,  
Lynn S. Groeschel, MSW Redstone Counseling  
Lsgroeschel@gmail.com  
608-432-6263

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)