

Dear Senator

I am your constituent and am writing to support **Senate Bill 1348: Legislative Package to Join the National Counseling Compact & Changes to Behavior Specialists.**

Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists, and EMS personnel, the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for counselors while allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states.

I recognize that the Counseling Compact will benefit consumers, including Pennsylvania residents, and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements;
- Increasing access to care for clients;
- Ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states;
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating; and
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Notably, the Counseling Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the profession. Counselors utilizing the Compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they practice, including adhering to that state's scope of practice.

**Please support Senate Bill 1348: Legislative Package to Join the National Counseling Compact & Changes to Behavior Specialists.** This change will help counselors best meet the mental health needs of Pennsylvania residents across our state and beyond.

Sincerely,