

Dear [INSERT NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATOR],

I am a supporter of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association, which is a state branch of the American Counseling Association. I have a stake in the mental and emotional wellness of Pennsylvanians as well as the professional practice of Pennsylvania's licensed professional counselors, as I am a [INSERT YOUR ROLE (counseling student, counselor educator, licensed professional counselor, pre-licensed professional counselor, other mental healthcare provider)].

I am writing to express support for Pennsylvania's joining the Interstate Counseling Compact, legislation for which was previously introduced in 2022 by Senator Boscola (previously Senate Bill 1348) and Representative O'Mara (previously House Bill 2852). [Insert personal story or interest in this issue.]

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 Interstate 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.

Importantly, 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 are practicing, including adhering to that state's scope of practice. Currently, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware have enacted legislation which makes them members of the Compact; because of the close proximity of Pennsylvania to these states, clients living along these borders will have greater access to mental healthcare should Pennsylvania join the Compact. Further, licensed professional counselors will have increased employment opportunities.

For these reasons, I ask that you work with Senator Boscola and Representative O'Mara to re-introduce legislation which would allow Pennsylvania to be one of the 25 states currently in the Compact.

This change will help licensed professional counselors to best meet the mental health needs of Pennsylvania residents across our state and beyond.

Sincerely,

Your Name