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PLEASE DO NOT EDIT THIS VERSION!! \*\*\***

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Dear Assemblyman/woman/Senator/Representative XXXX

My name is (\_\_\_\_\_), and I'm reaching out to request your support for Bill S3061. I am a (name of town) resident, licensed professional counselor and constituent (and/or counselor serving your constituents) of the (district number within township) district. While sharing my intention to advocate with colleagues of the New Jersey Counseling Association (NJCA) (or alternatively any personal contacts you may have with the legislative office), they suggested that I reach out to your office directly in hopes that you will be an ally in efforts to expand reach and access to mental health services in our state and beyond. I would be most grateful for your support of Bill S3061 sponsored by Senator Jean Stanfield. ***Please contact Senator Joseph Vitale, Chair of the Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee to request Bill S3061 be posted for a committee vote and consider adding your name as a co-sponsor of this bill.***

The Counseling Compact would provide a number of important expansions to access, mobility, and professional practice while simultaneously allowing for comprehensive oversight. In addition, the compact ensures that member states maintain authority over their own regulatory processes, thus eliminating the conundrum of universal reciprocity between states.

Nationally, a number of such compacts are currently in operation for professional providers within the health/mental health sector. These include nurses, physicians, psychologists and emergency management personnel to name a few. I have also been quite excited to hear the news that the interstate Counseling Compact registered Nebraska as its 10<sup>th</sup> state on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, allowing them to launch next steps, and legislation has already been enacted in 17 states.

I would also note the important support the compact would afford to military service members and their families. This is a special demographic in dire need of mental health care, and once obtained, it is not uncommon for these services to be disrupted as service members are re-assigned to bases outside the community of their established providers.

Additional information is available on the Counseling Compact website: <https://counselingcompact.org/>

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and I'm hopeful that your office will consider supporting Counseling Compact legislation, Bill S3061.

Warmest regards,

(Name)