



January 29th, 2021

The Honorable Senator John Arch, Chairperson  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska State Legislature  
State Capitol Bldg,  
PO Box 94604,  
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: SUPPORT FOR LB554 – Licensed Professional Counselors Interstate Compact

Dear Chairperson Arch and Distinguished Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

We want to thank you for taking our written statement of support for LB554 – the Licensed Professional Counselors Interstate Compact (“Counseling Compact”). We are the Nebraska Counseling Association, a non-profit organization that represents counselors and therapists across the state, who will be positively affected by this legislation. Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel, the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for practitioners while allowing state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information.

The Counseling Compact will benefit Nebraskans in need of critical lifesaving mental health support and counselors in Nebraska 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.

The Counseling Compact preserves each 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. We strongly urge you to support this Compact.

Sincerely,

Nebraska Counseling Association Executive Board

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