



March 5, 2021

Dan Logsdon
Director-National Center for Interstate Compacts
The Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. Logsdon:

On behalf of the American Counseling Association of Georgia, I am writing to express our strong support for the Professional Counselor Interstate Compact (Counseling Compact). The American Counseling Association of Georgia is a state organization that represents over 1500 counselors of all disciplines working in mental health agencies, hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, and anywhere else where we can serve.

Georgia is filled with thousands of counselors who are often licensed in multiple states in order to continue to support their clients without violating any ethical or legal mandates. We want to be able to continue our work with clients wherever they are and wherever we are. There are similar, existing licensure compacts for medical doctors, nurses, psychologists, and physical therapists. The Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for practitioners and will also assist with making sure that each state is better able to protect their citizens because of sharing of licensure information across state lines.

Other benefits of the Counseling Compact include the following:

- Enhanced mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements;
- Increased access to care for clients;
- Ensured 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
- Preserved and strengthened systems of state licensure.

Lastly, this compact will still ensure that each counselor who uses it will abide by the laws and rules of each state in which they are practicing. The American Counseling Association of Georgia is excited about the possibility of having the Counseling Compact in place and we support it. It is my hope that we can look forward to the support of our elected officials as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Asha Dickerson', is written below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Asha Dickerson, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, CPCS
Chair, American Counseling Association of Georgia