



March 5, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Logsdon,

The Maryland Counseling Association, a nonprofit organization which represents counselors, therapists, and practitioners across the state of Maryland thanks the Maryland General Assembly for taking our members' testimonies of support for the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact bills. We appreciate Senate President William Ferguson and House Speaker Adrienne Jones for sponsoring SB571 and HB736 respectively in the Senate Educational, Health and Environmental Affairs committee and the House Health and Government Operations committee. The positive support from Governor Larry Hogan as well as the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors remains encouraging. We as the Maryland Counseling Association fully support the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact.

Our members will be positively affected by the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact. The Counselors Compact aligns with existing compacts for psychologists, nurses, physicians, physical therapists, emergency management personal, speech-language pathologists, and audiologist. Importantly the Counseling Compact will benefit residents of Maryland in need of mental and behavioral support by:

- Allowing continuity of care when relocated or travelling out of state
- Increased access to care
- Support for service member families in the

Maryland professional licensed counselors will benefit from the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact by:

- Increasing mobility of professional counselors

- Providing services in underserved and underrepresented areas
- Encouraged continuity of regulation in the practice of professional counseling

As the nation actively works to dismantle the stigma of mental health including efforts from SAMHSA, professional athletes, activists, celebrities, nonprofit organizations, as well as professional counselors, the demand for mental health services will increase. We need to remove barriers and increase access to ensure help is available. The Counseling Compact preserves each state's authority to regulate the profession of counseling. Maryland Professional Counselors who select to join the Counseling Compact are required to abide by the laws and regulations of Maryland and the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors. We strongly encourage the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact to pass in the General Assembly. Maryland will be an essential partner increasing access to care while strengthening the practice of professional counseling in our nation.

Sincerely,

The Maryland Counseling Association



MCA President

Carol Za McGinnis, PhD, SIP, BC-TMH, NCC, LCPC



MCA President-elect

Sara Pula, PhD, NCC, LCPC, ACS



MCA Advocacy Chair

Roni K. White, NCC, LCPC