



College of Education and Human Development  
Counseling Program

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September 21, 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 College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University, I write to express our strong support for the Counseling Compact. The Counseling Program at George Mason University, which is located in Fairfax, Virginia, started in 1972. We currently have 7 faculty members and our program enrolls approximately 60-80 new students per year for our on-campus program. At any given time, we have approximately 100-160 students in our program.

Our program attracts students from around the United States, some of whom choose to remain in the DC-metro area, which includes DC, Maryland, and Virginia, following graduation. The issue of licensure is critical to our students and graduates who remain in the area as well as those who move to other states. Specifically, if our graduates move to a different state or want to practice across jurisdictions as many do in the DC-metro area, they would have to reapply for licensure. In some instances, even after practicing counseling effectively for many years, relocation to a new jurisdiction would result in our graduates being required to complete additional coursework, take a different licensure exam, and/or complete additional supervised counseling hours to be licensed in a new state.

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 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.

We recognize that the Counseling Compact will benefit consumers, our members 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;

In summary, we strongly support the Counseling Compact and appreciate your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Baker".

Dr. Robert E. Baker, Dean & Professor  
College of Education and Human Development  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA 22030