



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 Maine Mental Health Counselors Association (MEMHCA), I am writing to convey the utmost support for the Council of State Government's Interstate Counseling Compact. MEMHCA remains the only professional organization in Maine working exclusively on behalf of clinical mental health counselors, and those we aim to serve. We represent nearly 2000 Clinical Mental Health Counselors in Maine, each holding the licensure titled: "Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor" (LCPC).

The MEMHCA board of representatives is in consensus that the Interstate Counseling Compact will increase the safety, accessibility, and quality of services for existing and potential clients. Further, it would increase the mobility, employment opportunity counseling professionals.

Specifically, the Compact would increase counselors' ability to establish and maintain essential ongoing and preventative care/service to clients who are facing disproportionately high levels of mental health concerns and stress due to the need for relocation or displacement. Note that it would also allow continued care for clients in the case that the counselor must relocate due to any of the circumstances listed below, demonstrating mutually beneficial (for clients and providers) policy. Common reasons for this include:

- Covid-19,
- Climate change,
- Attending college out-of-state,
- Financial crisis or chronic poverty,
- Military/veteran status (including families of military/veteran members),
- Extenuating personal/family circumstances, and various social and/or economic burdens of many kinds.

Importantly, the Counseling Compact preserves each member 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.

Cumulatively and in general, this aids in increasing the opportunities, freedoms, and quality of life for both counselors, clients, and those seeking care/services. As a National-scale act of advocacy, the Compact goes a long way in bolstering the reputability, quality, and strength of the counseling profession as a whole.

With these benefits in mind, the Maine Mental Health Counselors Association is honored to endorse the Interstate Counseling Compact. We are looking forward to working together with the CSG and professional counseling organizations across states to reduce unnecessary fragmentation, and thereby establish stronger roots as a profession by creating an interconnected, collaborative network of consensus, quality, and security. We are hoping to engage in what must become a strong, united collaboration to create a better quality of life for ourselves, our profession, and the populations we aim to serve.

Kind Regards,

Bethany Noel Leavitt

Board of Directors, Legislative Chair - MEMHCA
Clinical Mental Health Counseling, M.S., NCC
Interdisciplinary Graduate Student - University of Maine, Orono
Adjunct Instructor, Psychology - Husson University
leavittb@husson.edu
pronouns: she/her

"To develop a complete mind: Study the science of art. Study the art of science... Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else." —Leonardo da Vinci