



THE CITADEL

November 15, 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 Zucker Family School of Education's Counselor Education Division at The Citadel, I write to express our strong support for the Counseling Compact. The Counselor Education Division at The Citadel, which is located in Charleston, SC, started in 1973. We have enjoyed CACREP Accreditation since 2005. We currently have three full-time faculty members and 1 staff members. Our department enrolls approximately 60 students per year for our on-campus program. For licensure, being a CACREP accredited program allows our graduates to meet many states' curricular and experiential requirements. However, if our graduates were to move to a different state, they would have to re-apply for licensure. In some instances, even after practicing counseling affectively for many years, relocation to a new state 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 their 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 graduates 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;
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating; and
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Zucker Family School of Education

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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.

With these benefits in mind, the Counselor Education Division at The Citadel is excited to endorse the Counseling Compact.

We look forward to supporting the Counseling Compact in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Aaron Oberman, PhD

Program Coordinator

Associate Professor, Counselor Education Programs

Zucker Family School of Education - The Citadel

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