



OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

DARDEN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Department of Counseling & Human Services

April 20, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Logsdon:

Old Dominion University's Counseling Program, which has been CACREP accredited since the early 1990s, would like to give its unequivocal support for the Counseling Compact. Currently, the program has 11 full-time faculty members, approximately 150 master's students, and 40 doctoral students in counselor education. As our program is CACREP accredited, our students are able to meet the educational and field placement requirements for clinical mental health counseling licensure in most states throughout the U.S. However, when a student moves to another state from the one in which they are currently licensed, they generally have to re-apply for licensure. Even seasoned licensed practitioners may not be able to obtain licensure in a different state without overcoming a number of obstacles in the new state, including obtaining additional coursework, licensing exams, or supervised clinical practice hours. Since many of our students move to adjoining states and the District of Columbia, the Counseling Compact is particularly important for them to expand their service areas to address the increasing mental health needs across the U.S.

We believe the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for licensed counselors while allowing state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information. This has been the case in several related licensure compacts. The Counseling Compact will be a benefit to consumers and to graduates of our program by:

- Increasing counselor mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements,
- Increasing access to counseling for clients,
- Ensuring seamless continuity of care for counselors who move to other states,
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their credentials when relocating, and
- Strengthen the current system of state licensure.



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Please note that the Counseling Compact respects each state's authority to regulate the profession within their state; that is, each counselor must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing, including adhering to that state's scope of practice.

Considering the many benefits of the Counseling Compact, the Counseling Program at Old Dominion University enthusiastically support the Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Neukrug, LPC, LP, Chair
Dept. of Counseling and Human Services
Batten Endowed Chair of Counseling
Professor of Counseling and Human Services
Fellow, American Counseling Association