

Jeremy Schmaltz

Written Testimony in Support of SB 2187

ND Congressional Session Feb. 16, 2023

Greetings congress men and women of North Dakota. I am writing to you on behalf of the North Dakota Counseling Association, the North Dakota Mental Health Counselors Association, and counselors throughout the state of North Dakota. I urge you to consider passing SB 2187 relating to the adoption of the counseling compact. The passage of this bill would ensure counseling and mental health services to be more widely available for providers and clients within and outside of state borders. Currently, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors must attain separate licensure for each individual state in which a resident of North Dakota wishing to seek telehealth counseling services may be temporarily residing in at any given time. An example of this would be ND citizens who reside in AZ for the winter months and then fly back again later in the year. During the time in which the ND citizen is outside the state, they cannot always receive telehealth services from their counselor.

The passage of this bill would ensure that all ND citizens would be able to receive counseling and mental health services via telehealth regardless of where they are at a given time. This bill only benefits those struggling with mental health issues as well as the professionals that serve them.

Thank you for your time and consideration in passing SB 2187 regarding the adoption of the counseling compact.