

Testimony of SB 2187
The Workforce Development Committee
of the
North Dakota Senate
Senator Michael A. Wobbema, Chairman
February 16, 2023

Senator Wobbema and members of the Workforce Development Committee, my name is Todd Lewis, and I am member of the North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners. I am providing the NDBCE written testimony on Senate Bill 2187.

The NDBCE continues to discuss the impact the counseling compact would have on professional counselors and the board in North Dakota. Whereas the board believes that the compact may work over time, we simply don't know because there is no evidence in support of it working anywhere else. As such, the NDBCE would like to see how the compact plays out in other states before endorsing its use within North Dakota.

The NDBCE also has several questions/concerns related to the compact. These are reflected in the points below:

1. What are the fees the compact commission will charge to the NDBCE and licensees? No specific information has yet been provided.
2. What is the definition of who the compact applies to? Would it apply to people who are not licensed by the NDBCE?
3. What is the national test or tests the compact will use to meet qualifications for licensure? No information has yet been provided on this front.

4. What would NDBCE need to provide administratively, and would there be any changes or adjustments to the NDBCE's workload if joining the compact?

5. The compact seems to have a lack of flexibility in that if a board or state changes one word in it, they are in violation of the compact. This lack of flexibility is concerning, and it is unknown what the consequences for violating the compact would be.

NDBCE wants to make clear that our board has a neutral stance on whether legislation is passed to allow North Dakota the option of joining the compact and the potential benefits of this, it is instead that we feel it's impact on our state needs to be better defined; as outlined above, there are aspects about this that remain unclear.

If there are any follow-up questions, please direct the questions to the NDBCE by e-mail at ndbce@outlook.com.

Thank you for your time. This concludes my written testimony.

Prepared by:
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