

My name is Ruth M. Denton-Graber and I am a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and a Licensed Marital and Family Therapist. I have been practicing in North Dakota since 1992. I am writing in support of SB 2187 and the Counseling Compact.

This interstate compact is the same in form and function as compacts already in place, such as the Nurse Licensure Compact, the EMS Compact, the Physical Therapy Compact and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The Counseling Compact would empower both clinicians and consumers in North Dakota by allowing qualified professional counselors to practice in all states that are members of the Compact.

Seventeen states are currently a part of the Counseling Compact and North Dakota would greatly benefit by becoming the 18th. The Counseling Compact could help in multiple ways, including:

- Improving access to professional counseling services
- Preserving and strengthening state licensure systems
- Enhancing mobility for professional counselors
- Improving continuity of care
- Increasing public safety through a shared database of license and disciplinary actions
- Ensuring cooperation among compact member states in regulating the practice of professional counseling.

Please pass Senate Bill 2187.

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