

Members of the Workforce Development Committee,

My name is Emily Coler Hanson and I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in North Dakota and Minnesota. I ask that you pass SB 2187. Although this bill will not directly impact me personally, there are huge benefits to the mental health field as a whole and for the citizens of North Dakota.

The Counseling Compact will allow for:

- Easier hiring as we will have a larger pool to draw from
- Higher quality of care. If someone has a violation on their license, they are not allowed to participate in the compact.
- Ease for consumers. Clients will be able to see their same provider if they travel or move out of state.
- Easier to find coverage for low service areas.
- Reduced cost for providers as maintaining multiple licenses is expensive, time consuming, and CEU reporting in multiple places is cumbersome.

Each state still has the authority to regulate the profession, but allows for more providers to participate without extra hoop jumping.

I strongly encourage you to pass SB 2187.

Thank you for your consideration.

Emily Coler Hanson, LMFT
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