

Chairman Weisz and House Committee on Human Services,

I am here to introduce and provide supporting testimony for SB 2187. The purpose of this bill is to allow North Dakota to enter into the Counseling Compact, with the goal of improving access to counseling services for residents in our state.

Summary of SB 2187:

- Allows North Dakota to enter into the Counseling Compact, an interstate compact that allows licensed professional counselors to practice in multiple states without needing to obtain additional licenses.
- Increases access to care for North Dakota residents by allowing licensed professional counselors from other participating states — both in-person and via telehealth — to practice in North Dakota without having to obtain a new license.
- Creates uniform standards for the training, licensure, and practice of licensed professional counselors across participating states.
- Establishes a shared interstate licensure data system, allowing for near-instant verification of licensure status.
- Enhances public protection by ensuring that member states share information with one another.
- Affords greater ease of mobility for licensed professional counselors and creates new market opportunities for counselors.

SB 2187 represents an important step forward in addressing the mental health needs of North Dakota residents, and I respectfully ask for your support. If you have any questions or concerns about the bill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Cleary
North Dakota Senate
District 35 — Bismarck