

Members of the Workforce Development Committee

I am Barb Stanton. I have a PhD in Counseling Psychology. I am a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, and Nebraska. I work in a mental health agency and provide individual and family therapy services to children, teenagers, adults.

I am licensed in multiple states in order to provide continuity of care to my clients who have moved to different states. Most of these situations are people who I started seeing when they were children, and they are now in college. It is an honor and exciting to be able to continue to support them while they find move in to their future.

The Counseling Compact has several benefits including:

- Improving the continuity and coordination of care when a counselor or client relocate or travel to another different state.
- It expedites sharing information used for investigations and disciplinary information to protect the safety of the public and ensure the quality of professionals practicing in the field.
- It will create a new market for counselors and open opportunities for counselors to provide services in underrepresented states.
- There will be greater access for individuals and families for mental health care.
- There will be universal licensure laws that will increase license portability.

It was a cumbersome and time-consuming process to be licensed in other states. At a time when we need to take steps to improve access to mental health care, this is an excellent opportunity to do that.

As someone who has been in the field for over 30 years, I see several situations when this would have been important. When clients are on vacation, when children are visiting parents who live in other states, when someone moves, or, as I'm doing now, when people are attending colleges out of state are just a few examples of when the Counseling Compact would be beneficial.

It is also important to note that the Counseling Compact preserves the authority of each state to regulate the profession.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

I strongly encourage the passage of SB 2187.