



April 30, 2021

Representative Denise Tepler
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Committee
State House
Augusta, ME 04332

Subj: LD 863: An Act To Have Maine Join the Interstate Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact To Improve Telehealth Options for Psychologists and Their Patients

Dear Representative Tepler:

My name is Dan Logsdon. I am the Director of the National Center for Interstate Compacts at The Council of State Governments. The Council of State Governments facilitated the creation of the Counseling Compact.

Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments (CSG) is our nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. This offers unparalleled regional, national, and international opportunities to network, develop leaders, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships. All states are members of CSG and pay dues to support our work. We appreciate the participation of Maine with CSG East.

The National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC) is a program borne from CSG's more than 87-year history of promoting multi-state problem solving and advocating the role of the states in determining their respective futures. During that time, CSG began tracking the progress of more than 200 active interstate compacts, researching innovative state solutions and bringing the states together to build consensus on national issues.

In the past decade CSG has focused on helping states enhance the ability of licensed professionals to engage in interstate practice through the creation of occupational licensure interstate compacts. CSG has helped develop licensure compacts for nurses, physicians, psychologists, emergency medical services personnel, physical therapists, audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

In my capacity the Director of the National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC) at The Council of State Governments (CSG), I have been asked to write to you about the nature and scope of the language for the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT).

In recent years I have been involved with developing compacts focused on interstate occupational licensure. To date, Maine has enacted two occupational licensure compacts: Interstate Medical



Licensure Compact (IMLC) and the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Maine is a member of over 30 interstate compacts including five national compacts:

- The Emergency Management Assistance Compact
- The Military Children's Compact Commission
- The Interstate Compact for Juveniles
- The Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision
- The Intestate Compact for the Placement of Children

The Maine State Legislature is currently considering enacting PSYPACT (LD 863). PSYPACT's provisions are similar in form and function to the provisions of the IMLC and the NLC for interstate mobility previously enacted by Maine. PSYPACT provides greater access to care and strong provisions for patient and public safety. Specifically, PSYPACT addresses the growing demand to provide and receive psychological services via electronic means while empowering states to regulate telepsychology practice.

Occupational licensure compacts do not impact state scope of practice statutes or how a state regulates practice within its borders. Occupational licensure compacts are simply a means for professionals to achieve interstate occupational licensure mobility in an expeditious, cost effective manner that lessens the burdens on practitioners.

Further, a key benefit to states for adopting an interstate occupational licensure compact is that it allows states to cooperatively achieve "economies of scale" in regulating the interstate practice of a profession. These licensure compacts create a mechanism whereby states can jointly share information, conduct investigations and mete out discipline in furtherance of protecting the public, the chief goal of professional licensure.

To date, twenty (20) states have enacted the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

I appreciate your time and consideration of PSYPACT. Please feel free to contact me at dlogsdon@csq.org with any additional questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Dan Logsdon

Dan Logsdon
Director, National Center for Interstate Compacts
The Council of State Governments