

January 22, 2022

Dan Logsdon
Director - National Center for Interstate Compacts
The Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. Logsdon,

As a member of the Maine Mental Health Counselors Association (MEMHCA), I am writing to express my strong support for the Council of State Government's Interstate Counseling Compact.

The Counseling Compact will not only increase licensure portability for Maine Counselors but will also positively impact the Clients. The Counseling Compact will reduce current counseling barriers by increasing access across state lines. In our global community, The Counseling Compact is a win-win for both Licensed Counselors and Clients.

Benefits of The Counseling Compact:

- Enhancing mobility for Professional Counselors who meet licensure requirements;
- Increasing access to care for Clients who may need to relocate;
- Supports Insurance Companies in finding Professional Counselors for their members;
- Ensuring continuity of care when Clients or Professional Counselors relocate or travel to other states; including Military Personnel and Spouses;
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure; the laws and rules within each state that Professional Counselors practice while adhering to that state's scope of practices;
- The Counseling Compact supports how COVID-19 has changed the way Professional Counselors see and help their Clients;
- The Counseling Compact supports how COVID-19 has changed the way all wage earners perform their jobs including traveling to other states to obtain work;
- Extenuating personal or family circumstances can be a reason for Professional Counselors to uproot from their home state due to economic and family burdens of many kinds;
- Becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor is a lot of hard work, sacrifice and financially burdensome. The Counseling Compact acknowledges this and establishes security for the Professional Counselor to be able to relocate when necessary.

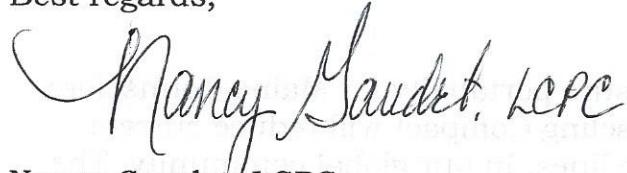
The American Counseling Association (ACA) has a mission to enhance core professional values with ethical commitments. One of the ACA Code of Ethics is to avoid harm to our Clients by not abandoning them in a way that would put our Clients at risk.

I think The Counseling Compact would help uphold the "Do No Harm" professional code, especially when Professional Counselors must relocate to another state due to family or financial circumstances.

The Counseling Compact would allow for continued care which would be mutually beneficial for both parties within the therapeutic relationship.

Dan, thank you and others for the work being accomplished to create security for the work being done by this, and many other, Professional Counselors.

Best regards,



Nancy Gaudet, LCPC
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
Scarborough, Maine