



**AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION**

The only organization working exclusively for the
mental health counseling profession

January 13, 2023

Re: House Bill 1069 and Senate Bill 5219

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for House Bill 1069 and Senate Bill 5219 on behalf of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA). This legislation allows privilege to practice for Licensed Mental Health Counselors (sometimes referred to as Licensed Professional Counselors) within member states. There are several benefits to this bill:

1. The COVID pandemic has negatively impacted the helping professions and specifically the availability for treatment providers to meet the needs of the community. This bill allows other Licensed Mental Health Counselors to support those seeking services who may otherwise be linked with long waiting lists.
2. These bills provide opportunities to protect the public by verifying the expertise of Licensed Mental Health Counselors, preventing those who may act unethically to operate within other states as this bill improves interstate communication.
3. Many of our service people are often asked to travel and relocate. This bill will allow those who have served an opportunity to maintain a connection with their clinician and even continue treatment involving the family if those in the relationship are separated by distance.
4. These bills will help to provide increased access to telehealth accommodating those who may not be able to see a clinician face to face.
5. These bills will enhance the profession of mental health counseling by taking steps towards uniformity among member states regarding the full expectations, scope of practice, and thus eliminating the need for various specialists to obtain multi state licensure to assist those in member states.

As the country continues to cope with the experiences for the last several years, providers have often been limited and in some case the public have been at risk for reaching out to unlicensed or non-verified practitioners. We ask that you consider and approve both bills in an attempt to meet the needs of the population by enhancing the safety and uniformity of the mental health counseling profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F B Dombrowski". The letters are cursive and connected, with a stylized "F" and "B" at the beginning.

Fredrick Dombrowski, PhD
LMHC, CASAC, LPC, LADC, NCC, CCMHC, ACS, BC-TMH, HS-BCP, ICADC, DCMHS
AMHCA President