



Marietta College

4 December 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support of changes to Ohio Law in regards to the requirements for eligibility to gain licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor. As you may well know, current law requires applicants for such a license, who are graduates of an Institution of higher learning from within the State of Ohio, to have graduated from a CACREP accredited program. Conversely, those who are graduated from a program outside of the state, who are not graduates of such a program are required to submit details of their coursework for review by the Counseling Social worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

Requiring accreditation of the graduate's program limits the future growth of the Counseling profession within the state. A program is not able to be accredited until it has graduated at least one cohort of students. Therefore, graduates of a program within the state, which is seeking accreditation have no course to licensure under the current law. It is true that the degrees of such graduates would be retroactively accredited if their program is accredited within 18 months of their graduation. However, during the interim, these graduates would not be eligible for a license. This could result in those graduates not being able to serve the community and possibly cause them to relocate outside of the state in search of employment. I am in support of legislation that would allow graduates of programs which are currently and verifiably seeking such accreditation to become eligible for licensure.

Keeping this catch-22 in the law not only restricts the growth of the profession within the state of Ohio, but it also limits the economic and social growth of the state and the citizenry. It could be easily argued that there has never, in the history of the state, been a greater need for mental health services. Addiction to opioids and other substances in this region have stretched beyond epidemic proportions.

Changing the law in this respect will allow schools such as Marietta College to begin enrolling students into a program which will prepare future counselors to serve this need in the state and the surrounding region. It will provide the subsequent economic growth that comes with a populace that is served thusly. It should be clear that there is a direct, positive economic and social benefit to passing legislation that would eliminate this catch-22. To reiterate, the current law does not allow the establishment of new Counselor Education programs to lead to successful licensure of their graduates. There is an ongoing need for people with this credential. I urge you to pass appropriate legislation.

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