



May 16, 2022

The Honorable Representative Carruthers, Chairperson
House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee
One Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 204 – Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact

Chair Carruthers, Vice Chair Pavliga, Ranking Member Boyd and all members of the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee:

Thank you for allowing my written statement of support for Senate Bill 204 on the “Counseling Compact” to be entered into the public hearing record.

The past two years have seen an increase in demand for behavioral health needs and a depleted workforce to provide those services. The question we now face is how to promote accessibility of mental health services safely across the country. The Counseling Compact is the most viable way of achieving this goal. The Counselor Compact will support appropriate public protection, allow Ohio Counselors an opportunity to provide services in other states, and ensure Ohioans can get help from Counselors licensed in Compact member states.

Thrive Peer Recovery services uses these counselors to provide diagnostic assessments as well as counseling services, and treatment plans for a wide variety of Ohioans with behavioral health needs across Ohio.

The Counseling Compact will benefit clients and the counseling profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.
- Increasing access to care for clients.
- Ensuring continuity of care when clients or counselors relocate or travel to other states.
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their certifications when relocating with greater ease.
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Thrive Peer Recovery Services look forward to the opportunity to implement the Compact. We urge you to vote to support Senate Bill 204. Thank you.



cdjt

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