

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Senator Paul Pinsky, Chairperson  
**EHEA Committee**  
Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen Street  
Room 2, West Wing  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **SUPPORT FOR SB 571** – Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact

Dear Chairperson Pinsky and Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs:

I want to thank you for taking my written statement of support for SB 571 on the “Counseling Compact” to be entered into the public hearing record. My name is **Loretta Collins, and I am a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor who resides and practices in Bethesda, MD.**

This Compact is important to me because the ability to provide telebehavioral health to clients across state lines not only allows people who need psychological help to receive it but for clients who move out of state to continue with a trusted therapist.

As you know, services for mental health cost the United States over \$201 billion dollars a year according to Charles Roehrig’s 2016 article entitled, Mental Disorders Top The List Of The Most Costly Conditions In The United States: \$201 Billion. Teletherapy and streamlining practice across state lines not only saves on overhead for therapists, which can help cut costs for their clients but also for the economy.

Much like existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists, and EMS personnel, the Counseling Compact will increase licensure portability for practitioners while allowing state regulatory boards to protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information.

I strongly urge you to support this Counseling Compact.

Sincerely,

Loretta Collins

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