**COMPACT LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT!**

**Do you want Connecticut counselors to be able to participate in the Interstate Counseling Compact?**

We have a last minute opportunity this legislative session to request that the Public Health Committee include the Interstate Counseling Compact in a workforce development bill [SB1228](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2023&bill_num=1228). We need as many of you as possible to **submit written testimony by Tuesday, March 21 by 3 pm** at this link <https://www.cga.ct.gov/aspx/CGATestimonySub/CGAtestimonysubmission.aspx?comm_code=ph>

It’s EASY to submit testimony by using the Template included below! Add just a few personalized adjustments (the Template explains how) and it’s ready to go.

**You are invited to a virtual meeting this Friday, March 17 at 1 pm** where we will be helping people prepare their testimony and discuss the benefits of the Compact. We look forward to seeing you there!

Here’s the link to Friday’s meeting: <https://fairfield.zoom.us/my/jocelynnovella>

**Why do you want the Compact to become law?**

1. You can get a privilege to practice in other Compact states (rather than what would happen under some currently proposed telehealth bills which only allow counselors from other states to practice in Connecticut, but not vice versa.)
2. Your clients can have continuity of care with you via telehealth sessions if they travel out of state for vacation or work, or even if they move permanently, to another Compact state.
3. Connecticut Counselors will maintain the standard of professional identity established by the Compact and state law, ensuring quality of care for our clients.
4. Our in-state academic counseling programs will stay competitive and attractive for counseling students to study and practice in Connecticut.
5. Connecticut will remain competitive and attractive for licensed professional counselors to practice here since they won’t be excluded from the national market established by the Compact.
6. Members of the public who need specialized counselors will have more access to counselors with those skills.
7. The Compact will streamline the process of qualified counselors getting licensed when they move into Connecticut, as obtaining reciprocity can be time consuming and delay is expensive.
8. The Compact will allow military personnel and their spouses who are counselors practice immediately upon moving to Connecticut.

Attached is a One Page information sheet that explains how the Compact works and describes how it benefits public access to counselors and counselor’s ability to practice. Also attached is the Testimony Template.

If you have questions feel free to email PPLC Co-chairs Karen Caffrey at kdcaffrey@gmail.com or Jocelyn Novella at jocelynnovella@gmail.com.