



National Career
Development
Association

February 8, 2023

RE: House Bill 2288

The National Career Development Association (NCDA) enthusiastically endorses House Bill 2288 to enact the counseling compact to provide interstate practice privileges for professional counselors. As a founding division of the American Counseling Association, NCDA members are keenly aware of the need for counseling services in all parts of the US.

The challenge of counselor mobility and a client's ability to continue services when moving outside their providers service area is problematic. Many states have signed the compact legislation developed by the National Center for Interstate Compacts at The Council of State Governments. The counseling compact creates an agreement between member states to allow a privilege to practice in each other's state. We encourage the Kansas Legislature to join this compact and increase portability and mobility for licensed professional counselors.

Many other professions, including nurses, physicians, physical therapists, psychologists, emergency management personnel, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists, have enacted similar compacts. By enacting this compact, it will eliminate barriers to practice without affecting existing licensure systems in various states. This will improve access to mental health services to all citizens in the state of Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deneen Pennington".

Deneen Pennington
Executive Director
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