

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS



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RESOLUTION

**Of the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
Regarding Consideration by THE STATE OF TEXAS for Membership in the Interstate
COUNSELING COMPACT;**

- I. WHEREAS, the Counseling Compact ("Compact") is an occupational licensure compact among states that allows licensed professional counselors residing in member states to practice in other member states without the need for multiple licenses;
- II. WHEREAS, the Compact became operational April 19, 2022 upon the addition of a 10th member state. As of September 14, 2024, the Compact has 37 members;
- III. WHEREAS, as of August 31, 2024, there were 29,922 active licensed professional counselors and licensed professional counselor associates in Texas, resulting in a statewide population-to-provider ratio of approximately 1,004:1, with even higher ratios in non-metropolitan and border areas.
- IV. WHEREAS, residents of Texas stand to benefit in numerous ways should the state join the Counseling Compact, including:
 - Expansion of counseling services, including continuity of care when clients relocate or travel.
 - Extending the opportunity to serve clients in other states through teletherapy;
 - Certifying that professional counselors meet acceptable standards of practice while maintaining member states' licensure autonomy;
 - Allowing military personnel and spouses to maintain their licenses upon relocation by significantly reducing the time needed for authorization to practice;
 - Creating ease and flexibility for counselors responding in crisis situations both in Texas and in

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other member states;

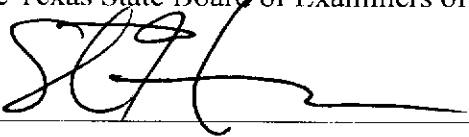
- V. WHEREAS, membership in the Compact does not change Texas's authority to license and regulate the state's professional counselors, as similar to other successfully implemented licensure compacts in the state of Texas the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors ("Board") would maintain its authority to regulate counselors in order to protect the citizens of Texas; and
- VI. WHEREAS, potential State of Texas membership in the Compact enjoys broad support from the counseling profession's stakeholder organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

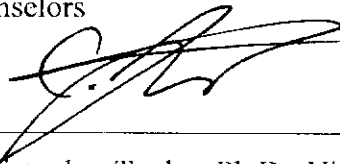
- I. The Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors supports efforts for Texas to join the Counseling Compact.
- II. The Board encourages the Texas Legislature to consider the adoption of legislation enacting the Compact in this state.
- III. Board members are willing and available to serve as resource witnesses during consideration of the legislation required to join.

ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF September 2024

By the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors



Steven Hallbauer, Chair



Christopher Taylor, Ph.D., Vice-Chair