



RE: RE: Proposed bill to revise the Public Health Code, Part 181 Counseling

April 26, 2019

Dear Legislator,

The Department of Counseling and Addiction Studies faculty at University of Detroit Mercy appreciate your work, and fully and vigorously support your introduction of a bill to revise the Counselor Licensure Law (Part 181 Public Health Code). Changes to the Public Health Code related to the Counseling profession are long overdue, and frankly, should have been accomplished years ago. This is because the profession of Counseling has changed so dramatically over the last two decades, and yet, the Michigan Public Health Code has not been revised to reflect these significant changes. As a result, the current statute does not reflect the actual scope of practice that Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC's) are trained to perform.

As you are aware, the proposed legislation responds directly to LARA's request that the scope of practice for the Counseling profession be clarified by bringing current language from the Administrative Rules into the Statute. A specific issue is the need to move the scope of practice activities already contained in the Administrative Rules (i.e., assessment, diagnosis, psychotherapy) into the statute to ensure complete clarity and coherence and to ensure that critical course content requirements (human development, cultural diversity) are included in the statute.

The proposed bill is consistent with the training standards of the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), which have been adopted by the Michigan Board of Counseling. Moreover, the bill is consistent with the model scope of practice for professional counselors endorsed by the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) as part of nationwide portability for professional counselors. Most significantly, the proposed bill is designed to move Michigan's Public Health Code related to Counseling in line with the rest of the states.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the profession of counseling, and all of the Michigan residents whose mental health needs are served by professional counselors.

Sincerely,

Nancy G. Calleja

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