

April 24, 2019

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

Dear Legislator,

The Counseling Program faculty at Eastern Michigan University strongly supports your introduction of a bill to revise the Counselor Licensure Law (Part 181 Public Health Code). Since this statute was signed into law in 1989, the counseling profession and our training standards have undergone significant changes. It is clearly time to update the statute so that it reflects the actual scope of practice and training of Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs).

The proposed legislation responds to LARA's requests that we clarify the scope of practice by bringing current language from the Administrative Rules into the Statute. More specifically, while the Administrative Rules currently allow professional counselors to provide services such as diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assessment, it is critical that the proposed legislation moves these activities into the statute to clarify that these are in our scope of practice. The bill reflects a model scope of practice for professional counselors that has been endorsed by the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) as part of their efforts to move toward national licensure portability for professional counselors.

The bill also reflects 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. Thus, we are pleased to see that course content requirements such as social and cultural diversity, human growth and development, and diagnosis have been incorporated in the statute.

We greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of our profession and look forward to doing whatever is needed to assist in getting this legislation passed.

Sincerely,



Irene Mass Ametrano, Ed.D., LPC, ACS
Professor and Counseling Program Coordinator