



**The Council
of State
Governments**

**HB 2288 Legislative Testimony
Kansas House Committee on Health and Human Services
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Bill Number: HB 2288

Position: Neutral

Testimony: Oral

Names:

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The Council of State Governments (CSG) is a non-partisan membership organization that serves the three branches of state governments. The CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts is a technical assistance provider for states on interstate compacts. CSG has provided technical assistance to states during the development and administration of the Counseling Compact.

The Counseling Compact is an interstate compact, or a contract among states, allowing professional counselors licensed and residing in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without need for multiple licenses. Compacts are created when states pass identical compact legislation.

The Counseling Compact reflects how states currently license counselors. Counselors who meet the uniform licensure requirements are able to quickly obtain a privilege to practice, which is equivalent to a license to practice counseling in another state.

Like other interstate licensure compacts, the Counseling Compact is designed to improve access to services, enhance mobility for professionals, support relocating military spouses, improve continuity of care, and ensure cooperation among compact member states.

The Counseling Compact has no impact on a state's scope of practice and leaves state-specific licensure requirements in place.

The compact creates a shared interstate licensure data system, allowing for near-instant verification of licensure status. Through the data system, a privilege to practice, or the authorization to practice in another compact member state, can be obtained in a matter of minutes. The data system will also enhance public protection by ensuring that member states share investigative and disciplinary information with one another.

Currently 17 states are members of the Counseling Compact, and 19 states have introduced the legislation for consideration so far in legislative sessions this year. Kansas is currently a member of six licensure compacts.