

Maryland Counseling Association, Inc. is a Branch of the American Counseling Association

A 501(c)3 Corporation, EIN: 84-4062414

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Dear NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE,

I am a member of the Maryland Counseling Association, a branch of the American Counseling Association. I am a Licenced Clinical Professional Counselor/Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor/Counseling Student in the state of Maryland. I am reaching out to you to make you aware of our organization’s position on two current bills, as well as a conflict between the two bills of which you should be aware.

Regarding House Bill 146/ Senate Bill 221, we are in favor of these bills, which establish that Marriage and Family Therapists in another state applying for licensure in MD will apply to the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists/ Health Occupations Board, who will determine equivalency for licensing. This ensures that all behavioral health professions in the state of Maryland are held to the same high standards of licensure.

Regarding House Bill 628/ Senate Bill 409, we are not in favor of these bills, which propose to add language stating that if a Marriage and Family Therapist is licensed in another state and in good standing, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists shall waive the licensure equivalency requirements. We are concerned about waiving equivalency requirements as this could jeopardize the quality of the behavioral health professions in the state of Maryland.

Lastly, we want to point out that HB146/SB221 and HB628/SB409 are in direct contradiction to one another. All the bills are moving forward in the voting process. We want to bring this to your attention as we are unsure of how this would be handled if both bills should happen to be voted into law.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding our stance on these bills.

Sincerely,

MEMBER NAME