



HELP FOR ALL IDAHOANS

Idaho State Senate
Idaho State Capitol
700 W Jefferson St,
Boise, ID 83702

Chair VanOrden and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Idaho Behavioral Health Association (IBHA), we would like to express our full support for House Bill 393 – Counseling Compact. IBHA is an Idaho-based 501 (c)3 nonprofit with a fully volunteer board dedicated to creating safe and accessible behavioral healthcare for the people of Idaho. We are a coalition of payers, providers, and patients with a vision of removing barriers to healthcare, removing stigmas surrounding mental and behavioral health, and creating a state that values the importance of including mental and behavioral health in patient care.

IBHA aims to enhance partnerships to foster behavioral health advancements by tackling one issue at a time through thoughtful discussions and collaboration to develop and make policy recommendations. This legislation would allow Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors to pursue avenues to practice in-person or through telehealth in any of the 32 current compact states. HB 393 provides an opportunity to increase access to care and reciprocity in the state of Idaho.

With the severe healthcare workforce shortage we have seen in our state, this legislation is a step toward solving this issue. With 32 states being a part of the compact and nine (9) other states with pending legislation to join the compact, this legislation is essential for providers to not write off Idaho. If this legislation were to not move forward, counselors would make a choice to practice in one of the other numerous states that allow this tool for reciprocity.

Thank you again for the opportunity to weigh in on House Bill 393. We urge you to send this legislation to the Senate Floor with a do-pass recommendation.

Respectfully,

Erin Hudson
Board President
Idaho Behavioral Health Association