

Comment Report

HF 494

A bill for an act establishing the professional counselors licensure compact.(Formerly HF 90; See HF 671.)

Subcommittee Members: Sexton-CH, Gjerde, Wulf

Date: 03/09/2023

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: House Lounge 2

Name: Noah Hackbart

Comment: I urge the passage of HF 494 out of this subcommittee. This bill is an important first step in expanding mental health accessibility in the state of Iowa and giving students more options when it comes to providers and telehealth. Our college students are often at a loss for options or accessibility when it comes to attainable mental health counseling. Our student legislative liaison team has heard from graduate students within our clinical mental health counseling program as well as to how important this is to them as future professionals who are looking at licensing, staying in the state, and offering comprehensive services to individuals in need. This compact will give students the opportunity to have a wide range of options when it comes to mental health counseling, will help bring and keep professionals in the state, and is a great first step at addressing the atlarge mental health crisis our country is facing. Again, I urge this subcommittee to support HF 494. Thank you for your time.