



## Please Support Legislation for Licensed Professional Counselor Associates

The **Connecticut Counseling Association (CCA)** asks for your support for legislation that would create a first tier of licensure for Licensed Professional Counselors, known as Licensed Professional Counselor Associates.

### **Two-Tiered Licensure Structure for Professional Counselors.**

- A first tier for those practicing under supervision would become Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA), and a second tier for those practicing independently as Licensed Professional Counselor.
- Would allow new graduates working to complete the 3,000 mandatory supervised hours of practice to have a title to practice under with formal oversight by the Department of Public Health.

### **Promotes Job Development in CT**

- Helps Connecticut retain counseling graduates by aligning counselor licensure with the two-tiered structure already in use by 40 other states, including NJ and NY.
- Provides more opportunity for recent graduates to find supervised experience. Graduates are often forced to work part time in multiple jobs, which prolongs the amount of time before they can become licensed.

### **Provides for More Licensed Mental Health Practitioners.**

- Connecticut needs more licensed mental health practitioners.
- The proposed bill provides important consumer protections: Counselors working toward completing 3000 hours of supervised experience will be required to complete continuing education and will be subject to regulatory oversight by the Department of Public Health.
  - Currently, counselors are not under the purview of the DPH - and are not required to complete continuing education - until *after* they have completed the 3000 supervised hours and obtained a license.
- The proposed bill will place Connecticut's professional counselors on an equal footing with their colleagues in social work who already benefit from a two-tiered license structure

### **Does Not Change the Scope of Practice or Cost Money.**

- The CCA does *not* seek any change in the scope of practice for professional counselors. Those practicing under the proposed category of Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA) would be performing the exact same services as are currently provided by unlicensed practitioners who are working under supervision toward licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs).
- The CCA does not propose any change to the current standards or requirements for LPCs.
- LPCAs would pay the same licensure fee as a LPC. Any LPC will have to show their supervised work being completed. This bill only initiates the licensure process sooner by having them licensed while completing their supervised hours.

For more information, contact Mike Shavel, President, CCA at [mikeshavel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikeshavel@sbcglobal.net)