

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Join CCA in helping new counseling graduates acquire licensure while working toward their LPC!

CCA is proposing the creation of a 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.

Help Professional Counselors be more marketable:

- 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
- Aligns Connecticut counselor licensure with the two-tiered structure already in use by 40 other states, including NJ and NY.

Helps bolster professional identity and the status of counseling in Connecticut.

- Recognition by the DPH during the first 3,000 hours helps assure hiring agencies and the public of the quality of practice by professional counselors.
- Currently, supervised 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.

Get started today!

We urge you to contact your state legislators right away to seek their support on this important legislative initiative. Instructions for how to reach out is provided below. Visit

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp> to identify your General Assembly Representatives and Senators.

What to Ask Legislators:

When reaching out to legislators via phone or email you will often talk to their aides. Explain what we are seeking using the one page [2019 CCA Legislative Fact Sheet](#) and state that you are hoping the legislator will propose legislation. The proposal only needs to include a statement of intent such as the one below.

Proposed Bill- Statement of Intent:

To create a tiered licensure structure for professional counselors that provides recent graduates with greater professional marketability, increases the number of mental health professionals and ensures proper oversight over supervised counselors.

Please contact [Mike Shavel](#), CCA President, at mikeshavel@sbcglobal.net with any questions about outreach and when you do reach out to legislators please inform him especially if you get a response from your legislator.