

Hello Members of the Vermont House of Representatives. Thank you all for the work you do to make Vermont better for all who live in this great state! I am so excited to be a part of supporting the Social Work Compact.

My name is Angela Paoli and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the current President of National Association of Social Workers Vermont.

I moved here in 1998 from NYC and have been providing mental health services to Vermonters ever since. In that time, I have encountered many instances where a social work compact would have tremendously helped the client I was working with. I would like to outline a few of these:

- Many times, I have been working with young people who live in Vermont but attend college out of state. It has been a great hardship for them to find someone new in their college state instead of continuing to work with someone they had grown to trust. I had one young woman ask me if it would be allowed if she sat in her car for telehealth sessions. She was desperate to continue. She never found the courage to find someone new at school and we had to resume when she was home on school breaks and summer vacation.
- Recently, I had been working with a client on some very serious issues for about two years when her husband found employment in another state. She was very upset that we were not allowed to have sessions after she moved. She felt that this would be optimal continuity of care. I agreed, but unfortunately, I could not lawfully do this without a compact.
- I also work for Vermont reproductive medicine clinics doing psychoeducational sessions with their clients on various reproductive medicine processes. Among those clients, we have surrogates and intended parents, egg donors, egg donor recipients, sperm donor recipients. I could go on at the many ways medicine has helped people create their families. However, sometimes, one or more of the parties do not live in Vermont and if they are not able to travel here, then the agencies have to have a stranger complete the session instead of me being able to include all

parties together in the session. For example, it is standard process to meet with the surrogate and her partner first, then the intended parents and then have the group meet together to discuss issues that may arise on this journey. As you can well imagine, this is a very emotional journey and ensuring that everyone is prepared for it ensures a beautiful experience. This work is among the most gratifying that I have done and I hope with a compact in place we can make it even more effective and seamless.

These are just a few of the instances I have encountered over the years. I am so excited to be a part of this important legislation to be passed to help recipients of social work services. Please vote to pass the Social Work Compact, bill H.510.

Thank you for your attention to this important bill!

Angela Paoli, LICSW  
President-NASW-VT