

Honorable Representative Lori Houghton,

I am writing to you as I have learned that the Counseling Compact issue will be discussed on Tuesday. I have worked in the mental health field for over 20 years and I am very much in favor of being able to see clients via telehealth when they are out of state. Continuity of care is important and in this time where telehealth has become the norm, it has felt more and more unnatural to suspend or end care due to an invisible state border when the format and nature of sessions otherwise don't change at all.

I had an instance where a client was in another state for a few months due to a family emergency. They would have greatly benefited from being able to continue to meet during a highly stressful time in their life. Unfortunately I had to tell them I couldn't meet with them while they were in another state and could only resume when they were back in Vermont. It felt unnecessary and counterintuitive to temporarily suspend care and they preferred not to see someone new for such a brief period, so they went without.

Thank you for your time and consideration!  
Sincerely, Sarah

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Sarah C Maas, MA Lic Psy