



NDSA-19-2223

## **A Resolution in Support of the Establishment of a Counseling Compact**

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota legislature meets every two years, for up to 80 days, to set North Dakota policies and laws and to appropriate state dollars; and,

**WHEREAS**, the legislative bill SB 2187 proposes the establishment of a multi-state counseling compact which would create greater access to mental health services and allow for standardization of counseling licenses; and,

**WHEREAS**, the state of North Dakota is currently facing a shortage of professionals trained to provide mental health care to its residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, the NDSA has a strong history of supporting the mental health needs of students throughout the NDUS; and,

**WHEREAS**, student mental health is worsening and more than 60% of college students meet the criteria for at least one mental health issue<sup>[1]</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, waiting times to establish a visit with a counselor have increased drastically throughout the NDUS due to the shortage of counselors on each campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, a counseling compact would allow students to hold telehealth appointments with counselors that they are already established with from their home state; and,

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a counseling compact would allow for easier access to mental health services and allow students to choose a counselor that can best suit their needs; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the NDSA General Assembly supports the passage of a multi-state counseling compact.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Connor Ferguson*  
Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Research

[1] - <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/10/mental-health-campus-care>