



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUSELORS

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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the work that is being done to create a pathway for Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) to be able to provide services to clients with medicaid benefits. The Board of Professional Counselors has voted to support SB134.

We believe that this would be a huge asset to creating greater accessibility to services within our state. LPCs undergo rigorous training and preparation prior to licensure and are highly qualified mental health clinicians. LPCs have a minimum of a masters level degree, and must complete 3000 hrs of supervised experience as well as pass a national counseling exam prior to licensure which positions them to provide safe, responsible and qualified mental health services. Most insurance companies already acknowledge LPCs as qualified mental health clinicians which allows individuals with insurance to access mental health care through LPCs. This bill would extend the same opportunity to a greater population within our state. In addition to increasing accessibility to services, this bill also has the potential to decrease excessive emergency room expenses by providing more cost effective mental health care options.

Currently there are over 700 licensed professional counselors within our state. With the approval of SB 134, the inclusion of LPCs will greatly expand the mental health care accessibility within our state.

Thank you again for your time and effort towards this cause.

Sincerely,

The Board of Professional Counselors

