

## **Professional Association Council**

Addiction Professionals of North Carolina  
Licensed Professional Counselors Association of NC  
National Association of Social Workers-NC  
NC Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
NC Society for Clinical Social Work

NC Nurses Association  
NC Psychiatric Association  
NC Psychological Association  
NC Society for Clinical Social Work

### **STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION OF CONSOLIDATION OF LICENSING BOARDS**

The Professional Association Council (PAC) is composed of organizations representing the licensed behavioral health professionals in North Carolina. All of these professions are regulated through licensure statutes in the North Carolina General Statutes. These licensing boards are independent, self-supporting, and do not depend on the State for any financial resources.

While the professions represented by PAC work in the same area of healthcare, these are distinct professions with separate training programs, separate curriculum, separate ethics codes and various scopes of practice. Each of these professions has its own attributes – they are not all the same.

PAC strongly supports the primary role of licensing boards – protection of the public through licensure. PAC strongly supports maintaining independent, autonomous licensing boards for these professions to meet the mission of public protection.

Here are the reasons:

1. The Boards that license these disciplines are composed of professionals and public members who work autonomously for each individual profession, and maintain accountability for healthcare professionals who serve the citizens of North Carolina.
2. Each of the professions licensed by these regulatory boards is different in training and scope of practice. A “one size fits all” model will not work. A social worker would not have the knowledge to judge the credentials, ethics and work of a psychologist. A marriage and family therapist would not have the information needed to recommend disciplinary action for a licensed professional counselor.
3. A consolidated board of behavioral professionals would be detrimental to public protection, rather than enhancing it. The loss of identity of each profession will cause confusion with the public.
4. Each of the professions has a different code of ethics – often promulgated by the national organization representing that profession. The current independent boards for each profession bring the advantage of familiarity with that profession’s ethics code and standards.

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