Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I urge you to support HB 4325, which would protect the work of licensed professional counselors in Michigan. This bill is of interest to me because I am one of them.

Efforts are being made to greatly restrict our scope of practice as counselors, which would in turn negatively affect people who suffer from various emotional and mental disorders. It is vital that we are able to maintain this scope of practice. This scope is encompassed of skills that are mastered during the rigorous training of mental health counselors, and these proposed restrictions by LARA would severely limit the services LPCs can provide, as well as infringe on our ability to bill medical insurance. The access of quality health mental health care to Michiganders would be greatly reduced at a time when they are needed more than ever. HB 4325 rectifies this problem by updating the language of the Public Health Code to reflect the current training and practices of LPCs in Michigan, while bringing the code into alignment with the national standards for professional standards.

As a professional counselor who has a vested interest in the health and wellness of the citizens in your district, I believe that you can appreciate the challenges that we face. If HB 4325 is not passed, and our scope of practice is restricted, thousands of Michigan LPCs see their livelihoods severely impacted, while hundreds of thousands of people will lose access to their mental health counselors. With the vast number of Michiganders that need mental health services, it is only fair that they have an ample number of choices as far as mental health professionals that they can go to. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

With Regards,
(Name) (Credentials)
(Occupational Title If applicable)