



Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

500 Montgomery Street, Suite 350 • Alexandria, VA 22314 • (703) 535-5990 • www.cacrep.org

February 10, 2026

Re: CACREP Support for RI S2197

Dear Senator Lori Urso:

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) supports RI S2197, which would limit the ability of artificial intelligence (AI) system to be misrepresented as a licensed mental health professional.

CACREP is the leading national accrediting body for Counselor education programs. Our organization accredits master's and doctoral programs that prepare Professional Counselors in specialized areas such as Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Addiction Counseling, Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling, School Counseling, and others. We also accredit doctoral programs in Counselor Education and Supervision, ensuring the preparation of advanced practitioners and Counselor educators.

This bill is vital to upholding the integrity of the profession of Counseling. Our accredited programs require rigorous academic and clinical training, including supervised practicum and internship experiences. These programs are grounded in ethical practice and evidence-based care. Licensed Professional Counselors are trained to build authentic therapeutic relationships, which AI systems, by their nature, cannot replicate.

Allowing AI systems to present themselves as licensed providers threatens public safety, devalues professional standards, and undermines the trust between clients and mental health practitioners. Patients deserve to know when they are receiving care from a qualified, licensed human being, not from an unregulated algorithm. Misinformation in this area jeopardizes the quality of care and erodes confidence in the mental healthcare system.

Lastly, allowing AI to be misrepresented as a licensed mental healthcare professional violates a series of CACREP standards, including but not limited to Section 2.F: Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice, which requires programs to prepare Counselors who understand and uphold the professional boundaries of counseling practice. A fundamental professional boundary is prohibiting unlicensed entities from identifying themselves, explicitly or implicitly, as licensed mental health professionals.

For these reasons, CACREP strongly supports RI S2197. For any further questions, please contact CACREP's President and CEO Dr. M. Sylvia Fernandez at sfernandez@cacrep.org.

Sincerely,



M. Sylvia Fernandez
President & CEO