



# Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development

## 2018-2019 Public Policy Priorities

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Founded in 1972, The Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) is an association with more than 900 professional counseling members who work in a variety of settings to empower all, specifically marginalized individuals, families, students and groups to accomplish their mental health, education and career goals. Some settings professional counselors work in are: Schools, criminal justice facilities, community mental health centers, hospitals, nursing homes, managed care agencies, private practices, non-profit agencies, institutes of higher education and many other settings nationally and internationally. Professional counselors are required by state licensing boards to hold masters or doctoral degrees, complete extensive hours of post-graduate supervision, pass rigorous licensing exams, and pursue continuing education. Providing high quality and competent services is a priority for the counseling profession.

AMCD collaborates with researchers, practitioners, policy experts, advocates, and other community leaders to design policy recommendations that promote:

- Prevention
- Early risk identification and intervention
- Integrative and collaborative care
- Recovery and maintenance as the goal
- Advancing licensure portability
- Protecting the Affordable Care Act for mental health services and professional counselors
- Advocating for Medicare reform and the inclusion of professional counselors

Improvements in public policy can better the lives of *ALL* living with mental illness and improve the overall mental, emotional, and behavioral wellbeing of all our citizens globally. AMCD urges consideration of our recommendations to strategically and collaboratively address mental health care in America.

### **Our Legislative Priorities that have legislation include:**

- S. 1879, Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2017
- Conversion Therapy Bans across the United States - [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_jurisdictions\\_banning\\_conversion\\_therapy\\_for\\_minors](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._jurisdictions_banning_conversion_therapy_for_minors)
- Advocating for Licensure Portability Model
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and its implications on the counseling profession.