

Senate Resolution 517

By: Senator Dixon of the 45th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 31, 2024, as Licensed Professional Counselors Appreciation Day at the  
2 state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) in the State of Georgia provide vital  
4 mental health services and actively work to bridge the gap in mental health disparities,  
5 ensuring that individuals from all backgrounds, races, socio-economic statuses, and cultures  
6 have equal access to quality mental health care; and

7 WHEREAS, these dedicated LPCs undergo rigorous training and education that encompasses  
8 crucial areas such as psychopathology, testing and assessment, ethics, research, diversity,  
9 career development, and human development, equipping them to address the multifaceted  
10 challenges faced by our citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia proudly recognizes and supports more than 8,740 LPCs  
12 and more than 1,600 licensed associate professional counselors, each of whom contributes  
13 significantly to the mental and emotional well-being of our community members, reinforcing  
14 the strength and resilience of our great state; and

15 WHEREAS, inspired by the mission of the Licensed Professional Counselors Association  
16 of Georgia (LPCAGA), which aims to support the profession and professionalism of  
17 professional counselors, we acknowledge the pivotal role LPCs play in mental health  
18 treatment, ensuring that every individual in need receives the quality care and support they  
19 deserve; and

20 WHEREAS, the establishment of the 988-crisis line, an essential help line for those in dire  
21 need, now has a more extensive network of dedicated practitioners to refer to, thanks largely  
22 to the commitment and expertise of our LPCs; and

23 WHEREAS, we commend the autonomy and comprehensive capabilities of our LPCs who  
24 are sanctioned to practice independently, bill insurance companies directly, diagnose clients,  
25 administer vital clinical assessments, and conduct thorough mental health evaluations  
26 independently.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
28 recognize January 31, 2024, as Licensed Professional Counselors Appreciation Day at the  
29 state capitol and encourage all Georgians to recognize the importance of healthy minds and  
30 the noble work of our state's Licensed Professional Counselors.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
32 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
33 press.