Genetic Counselor Licensure

**Who Are Genetic Counselors?**

Healthcare professionals with a specialization in medical genetics and counseling

**What Do Genetic Counselors Do?**

- Discuss medical history and family history with individuals
- Analyze family and medical history to determine risk for genetic conditions
- Explain genetics, inheritance, and specific genetic conditions
- Help patients determine their chance of a genetic condition or risk for a recurrence of that condition
- Review available testing options, and facilitate genetic testing
- Help patients with decision-making regarding management, prevention, and research opportunities
- Provide psychosocial and supportive counseling

**Where Do Genetic Counselors Work?**

- Medical Clinics — hospitals, universities, private practices
- Corporations — pharmaceutical firms, genetic testing companies
- Non-traditional roles — public health departments, insurance companies, and healthcare companies.
- The primary focus areas for genetic counselors are Obstetrics, Oncology, Pediatrics, Neurogenetics, and Cardiology

**What Makes Genetic Counselors Unique?**

- Holding a Master’s degree in Genetics or Genetic Counseling
- Having clinical experience in the areas of medical genetics and psychosocial counseling through their extensive training
- Certification by the American Board of Genetic Counseling.
- ~85 genetic counselors with this advanced training and expertise are currently practicing in Minnesota
**WHY SHOULD GENETIC COUNSELORS BE LICENSED IN MINNESOTA?**

To protect the public — there is no legal standard for who can represent themselves as genetic counselors

To ensure that individuals and families receive quality genetic counseling services

To provide the public with a means to identify qualified genetic counselors

To ensure broad public access to genetic counseling services including rural Minnesota

**ARE GENETIC COUNSELORS LICENSED IN OTHER STATES?**

14 States are currently issuing licenses

5 States have bills passed and are currently in rulemaking

**WHAT WILL IT COST THE STATE?**

Our bill is BUDGET NEUTRAL for state of MN as Genetic counselor Licensure will be under the Board of Medical Practice

Cost analysis data shows genetic counseling by qualified professionals reduces national health care costs by over $4 billion over 10 years.

**SOME OF OUR SUPPORTORS**

The Minnesota Cancer Alliance
March of Dimes
The ALS Association MN/ND chapter
Children’s Tumor Foundation
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE)
MOCA (Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance)
Minnesota Oncology Nursing Society
National Society of Genetic Counselors
Minnesota Genetic Counselors Association