



March 26, 2021

Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams, Chair  
Representative Jonathan Steinberg, Chair  
Senator Tony Hwang, Ranking Member  
Senator Heather Somers, Ranking Member  
Representative William Petit, Ranking Member  
Public Health Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairwoman Daugherty Abrams and Chairman Steinberg, Ranking Members Hwang, Somers and Petit and Members of the Public Health Committee:

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 6666: An act concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes. AAMFT represents the professional interests of over 62,000 Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the United States, including Connecticut. House Bill 6666 includes an important update to the education requirements for licensing Marriage and Family Therapists. AAMFT is happy to support this bill, but we ask that the effective date for the language change be moved up to effective when passed.

The Department of Public Health legislative package correctly removes language that indicates an exact number of experience hours to be attained during MFT graduate programs. This change highlighted in section 17 of the bill is beneficial as it allows for this requirement to be in-line with the national accrediting organization as circumstances require updates to the program. We request that section 17 be changed to be effective upon passage due to the impact of the pandemic on MFT graduate programs. The current implementation date of October 1, 2021 may delay spring MFT graduates in receiving and applying for their Associate license.

We thank you for your commitment to the mental health professions in Connecticut. If you, or other staff members would like to request further information from AAMFT or continue this discussion, please contact me at [kdavenport@aamft.org](mailto:kdavenport@aamft.org) or (703) 822-7237. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keiko Davenport  
State Government Affairs Manager  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

