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Re: Bill SB821

To the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate:

Please do not remove coverage for Marriage and Family Therapy. My life has been affected positively because I was afforded counseling opportunities.

As a single parent, counseling helped my two small children and I to deal with feelings of rejection and eventual death. My other two teenagers have been helped by therapy made necessary by unfeeling, harassing teens from unhappy and unstable family settings.

For the past 8 years my family and I have had counseling to deal with being a cancer survivor and hoping to extend our lives together.

While working as a teacher for 36 years, I saw the value of counselors in the system. Before the advent of unnecessary testing, teachers had the time to communicate with the students and offer them advice and self esteem.

Families are being fragmented by divorce, technological, obsessions and lack of human connection.

Senator Crisco, who to his credit created "Family Day" which promotes the virtues of family and parenting, should realize how necessary this coverage is.

I hope the committee decides not to remove coverage for Family and Parenting therapy. More than anything, it's the duty of all of us to preserve and keep the American Family.

Sincerely,

John R. Varricchione