

HB 6646

Testimony regarding why Marriage and Family Therapists are particularly valuable members of the mental health community and why the state regulations currently governing them are in need of some changes.

My name is Laura McBride and I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I have spent the last 20 years working at a non-profit agency in Connecticut: The Waterford Country School. At this agency I provided individual, group, and family counseling to children and adolescents in their Residential Treatment Program. I became the first certified School-MFT in 2011. Now, I work at the agency's Special Education School offering counseling to students with multiple diagnoses and behavioral issues.

I would like to voice my support for MFTs to be able to obtain a provisional license. As an MFT, I know that the training that is received from our accredited programs and rigorous and thorough. I graduated from UCONN's MFT program. I would have benefitted from having the opportunity to pass the licensure exam and apply for a provisional license. I believe that this would have opened more doors for me as I sought to help children and adolescents in need. It would have demonstrated to potential employers that I was serious and disciplined and my efforts to obtain my license in the field. Passing the exam and then getting the provisional license would have given me the recognition that I deserved. It would also offer MFTs the same steps that other mental health professionals can obtain.

I would greatly appreciate your time and attention to this matter. MFTs are highly qualified mental health practitioners that provide an invaluable service to our communities.