

February 16, 2016

RE: Senate Bill 68 An Act Concerning Marital and Family Therapists

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee:

Since graduating in December of 2014 from the Master of Arts program in Marriage and Family Therapy at Fairfield University, I have faced considerable difficulty finding employment in the field as a post-graduate working towards licensure. Despite graduating at the top of my class, accumulating over 500 hours of clinical experience (over half of which were supervised), and even passing the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards, I was not even eligible to apply for most of the positions I was interested in simply on account of not already having a license.

I am writing to ask for your support of legislation that would create an "Associate," or LMFTA, for MFTs in Connecticut, which would effectively remove this barrier and provide qualified individuals like myself the ability to compete for these positions. Not only would such legislation create greater equity amongst mental health professionals, but also would supply the state of Connecticut with more qualified providers working towards improving the mental well-being and relational functioning of our residents and thereby better meeting their increasing health care needs.

I thank you for your consideration of this very important matter for our State.

Sincerely,
Andrew Fabian