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To: Members of the Public Health Committee

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

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

I am asking for your support of SB 68, creating an Associate License (LMFTA) for Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in our State. This issue is of great importance to Connecticut MFTs and the benefits of this bill will be considerable and far reaching;

- The LMFTA license will remove barriers to licensure that exist when MFTs graduate and seek employment. Their experience is that they need a license to get a job and they need a job to accrue the necessary hours required to attain a license.
- LMFTAs will be required to pass the national licensure exam prior to being awarded the LMFTA license.
- LMFTAs provide documentation that their practice will be supervised by a CT licensed MFT.
- The LAMFTA license will provide accountability and thereby protection and freedom-of-choice to the public.
- The LMFTA license will provide parity with other mental health professions (particularly, social workers) who recently attained an associate level licensure.
- The Department of Children and Families' call for greater access to services makes it imperative that MFTs be ready and able to join the fast forming multidisciplinary treatment teams providing services to individuals and families in the State of Connecticut.

I urge and appreciate your support of SB 68 and thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Dr. Ingeborg Haug  
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