

3/14/2017

General Assembly

State of Connecticut

210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Megan Humphrey and I am writing this letter to you today in support of the House Bill No. 7253 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

I am asking that the General Assembly revise the certificate (endorsement 268) language to include “licensed or licensed eligible” for Marriage and Family Therapists. Marriage and Family Therapy is a very valuable field as it looks at the whole system when someone comes in for counseling. Through this view, Marriage and Family Therapists are able to help a whole family in a quicker medical model. Rather than if the counseling was conducted by only focusing on the individual during a counseling session.

Currently, I am in my last year of graduate school for Marriage and Family Therapy. With the way the bill is written now, I would not be eligible to work in the school system for at least three more years. This is because after graduation, I will have to obtain my licensure hours and then sit for the licensing exam before I can even apply for the certification. I have ten years experience in school systems with special needs children. However, that wouldn't matter when I apply for the job if I don't have the certification required by the state.

I care deeply about this topic because schools are a huge system in our daily lives especially when considering children. As a Marriage and Family Therapist, I want to help children and families through the tough times that surround our schools in this day in age. Having a Marriage and Family Therapist in a school has the potential to prevent school shootings, lower bullying, identify home/family issues earlier, advocate for students who need it, etc. Why should we make it harder for Marriage and Family Therapists to be able to work in a school system when they are the best trained in this area?

Please take to heart what I have written here when it comes time to vote for this revision. I would greatly appreciate your hardwork and vote of confidence that we can do the job just like other counseling professionals already in school systems, if not better.

Sincerely,

Megan Humphrey

Megan Humphrey

From the Desk of Megan E. Humphrey