

September 15, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed rules regarding the licensure of Marriage and Family Therapists. AAMFT represents the professional interests of over 62,000 Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the United States, including Michigan. AAMFT is in full support of the proposed changes recommended by the Board.

The changes proposed by the Board are necessary improvements that will allow MFTs to continue to practice during the pandemic, as well as modernize the profession of marriage and family therapy in Michigan. The proposed rules seek to add provisions on telehealth, which will increase accessibility to mental health providers, as well as meet today's technological expectations. The changes proposed to the licensure by endorsement process matches AAMFT's model for license portability very closely, and will make Michigan very appealing for MFTs looking to relocate. AAMFT supports these changes, as they will hopefully ease the strain on Michigan's mental health workforce.

We thank you for your commitment to the mental health professions in Michigan. If you, or other staff members would like to request further information from AAMFT or continue this discussion, please contact me at <u>kdavenport@aamft.org</u> or (703) 822-7237. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Keiko Davenport Government Affairs Manager American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy