

1/19/2026

To the Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Pettit LMFT-A, and I am an outpatient clinician at Next Step Counseling in Cranston, Rhode Island. As a clinician who is professionally affected by Rhode Island's current licensure requirements, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill No. 7064, which has the potential to positively impact stakeholders around the state.

HB 7064 reduces direct client contact hour requirements for licensure, strengthens role-specific training by requiring a portion of supervised experience to be with couples and families, and reduces unnecessary barriers to licensure portability across states. HB 7064 modernizes Rhode Island's LMFT licensure pathway by:

- Aligning direct client contact hour requirements with national and regional norms,
- Strengthening role-specific training by requiring supervised experience with couples and families, and
- Reducing unnecessary barriers to licensure portability across state lines.

These reforms support workforce stability and access to care in a small, interconnected region where many residents live, work, and seek services across state borders—especially in the digital age.

For the reasons listed above, I respectfully urge you to support HB 7064 and vote in its favor.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Lauren Pettit, LMFT-A

Next Step Counseling

989 Reservoir Ave Suite 203

Cranston, RI 02910

Phone: 401-426-3404