

March 30, 2026

RE: Support for Senate Bill No. 3026

Dear Committee,

My name is Kate Wolfe, LMFT, and I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and an AAMFT Approved Supervisor in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. As a clinician and supervisor who is professionally affected by Rhode Island's current licensure requirements, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill No. 3026, which has the potential to positively impact stakeholders around the state.

SB 3026 aligns direct client contact hour requirements for licensure with regional and national standards, 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. SB 3026 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.

I have a unique stance, in which I initially was not in favor of this bill. However, as I learned more about the inclusion of relational work criteria within the required licensure clinical experience for associate LMFTs, I experienced a meaningful change of perspective. Recognizing how this addition better reflects and reinforces the systemic and relational foundation of our field, I have come to see it as a significant benefit. **This language/requirement change not only strengthens clinical training but also helps more clearly define and advocate for the unique identity and value of marriage and family therapy.**

For the reasons listed above, I respectfully urge you to support SB 3026 and vote in its favor.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Kate Wolfe, LMFT
AAMFT Approved Supervisor
South Kingstown, RI