

Bill: SB 3026

Position: Proponent

To the Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for **Senate Bill 3026**.

My name is Zachary Finocchiaro, and I am a MFT student in Wakefield. I am writing in support because SB 3026 modernizes Rhode Island's LMFT licensure pathway to better match the national and regional landscape while maintaining MFT-specific quality controls.

SB 3026 brings Rhode Island's licensure requirements in line with neighboring states while protecting quality of experiential preparation. The bill aligns the direct client contact requirement with national standards while maintaining the two-year postgraduate experience requirement and ensures MFT applicants receive supervised experience specifically working with couples and families by requiring at least 300 hours with couples, families, or groups of two or more individuals.

This matters for Rhode Island's workforce and access to care. Rhode Island is a small state with a highly interconnected regional labor market; we routinely see residents who live, work, and seek care across state borders. In the digital age, reducing unnecessary licensure barriers supports continuity of care and makes it more feasible for clinicians to practice where Rhode Islanders need them most.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **support SB 3026**.

Respectfully,
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