**SAMPLE LETTER FOR CONGRATULATING NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Date

The Honorable Sandra Sample

State Representative

State Capitol/Office Address

City, State Zip

Dear Representative (Senator or Senator-Elect, Representative or Representative-Elect) Sample,

I am writing to congratulate you on your success in the November election. I appreciate your service and commitment to serving in the Connecticut General Assembly.

I am a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) as well as the Connecticut Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (CTAMFT). AAMFT is the professional association for the field of marriage and family therapy and represents the professional interests of more than 50,000 marriage and family therapists (MFT) throughout the United States, including almost 2,500 MFTs in the state of Connecticut. CTAMFT is the geographical interest network of AAMFT, representing all MFTs in Connecticut.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a nationally and internationally recognized profession. MFTs are licensed to provide mental health services in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Public and private health plans recognize MFTs as independent providers of mental health services. Marriage and Family Therapy is one of the five federally recognized core mental health professions and MFTs are recognized as eligible providers by the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as CT’s Medicaid program.

Licensed MFTs must meet rigorous standards, including the completion of a Masters’ or Doctoral Degree in marital and family therapy or a related field, supervised clinical experience and pass a national examination. We are known clinically as systemic therapists, with specialized additional training in working with more than one patient individually, but also with the greater couple, family or community system in which that patient functions.

As you prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session I would offer myself and CTAMFT to serve as a resource to you if you should need any assistance in areas involving mental health care, including substance abuse/misuse treatment, access to care issues, telehealth mental health care, school based mental health access, private and public insurance coverage of mental health care or mental health workforce expansion.

I along with CTAMFT would love to schedule an appointment with your office to introduce our profession and discuss the mental health needs of our state. You can reach CTAMFT at the following email addresses; Rebecca Ruitto, LMFT & CTAMFT Chair: Chair@ctamft.org or Jaime Rodriguez, LMFT & CTAMFT Advocacy Chair: advocacy@ctamft.org . I and CTAMFT recognize your service in the General Assembly does not come without sacrifices and we are grateful for your service to the citizens of our great state.

Best regards,

Your name, License

Town, and state of residence