The demand is steadily increasing for therapeutic services of individuals, couples, and families. MFTs across Oregon are experiencing increased client caseloads and documentation, reduced telehealth options, and higher client acuity. Residents in Oregon face unique challenges for clients seeking mental health care as many parts of Oregon are considered rural or frontier. This is true for our neighboring states of Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and California. In some instances, it may be geographically closer for clients residing in Oregon to access mental health services in a neighboring state - or vice versa. Increasing license portability options would allow for greater access and increased quality of care for clients across Oregon and beyond.

Moreover, a vast majority of our alumni and recent graduates remain in the MFT field holding clinical or supervisory positions in various therapeutic settings such as private or group practice, community agencies, schools, inpatient and outpatient settings, and university centers. Easing license portability barriers would increase the possibility for our graduates and other MFTs to offer their services to a more diverse clientele, including underserved couples and families, across multiple states and regions. This expansion in licensing opportunities will increase access to care which will aid in reducing mental health disparities that exist within our state and the surrounding areas.

The Lewis & Clark College MCFT Program faculty endorse the inclusion and implementation of easing license portability barriers with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) in collaboration with the Access MFTs initiative. Through this initiative, we advocate for easier licensure portability across the 50 states. We look forward to partnering with our state’s legislators and licensing board to support this effort.

Sincerely,

Lewis & Clark College MCFT faculty