August 9th, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Patricia Barton

The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy

Dear Ms. Barton,

Licensure portability is a key part of easing workforce barriers for professions.

Whether easing the path for an MFT migrating from one state to another or making it easier for clinicians to obtain multi-state licensure, a focused strategy tailored to the unique needs and characteristics of our working professionals is vital to the future of the profession. Over the past 12 months, our Board and staff have met with AAMFT representatives to review research and approaches to portability that make the most sense for our MFTs and those who are interested in moving to or working within our state.

These efforts closely align us with our Governor’s goal to bridge the gap between the need for behavioral health services and shortage of staff. Utah is also placed in a unique situation, as we have youth often moving away for studies or temporary work opportunities outside the State, as well as military professionals who may receive temporary or permanent change of station orders. Portability laws would provide an opportunity for our licensed clinicians who have built relationships of trust with these individuals, to continue to follow them and maintain continuity of treatment.

We recognize that in recent months, AAMFT’s Board adopted an aggressive and targeted strategy that we concur is the best approach for our industry at this time, designed to ease barriers and challenges for our industry in the most effective way. The framework of AAMFT’s proposed portability model allows a cohesive, reasonable, sound, and consumer-protective way for MFTs to address key issues like mobility and ease of obtaining secondary licensure. It also provides valuable flexibility to address unique state policies needs and culture.
For these reasons we have already begun a partnership with State Legislators to engage in this conversation at our local level and move forward in these efforts.

By combining these two features, MFTs are positioned to reduce barriers, and realize real impactful change, in an accelerated time frame.

We look forward to working with AAMFT and other industry partners on executing this effort and paving the way for an easier licensure portability process for MFTs in the near future.

Sincerely,

Roberto De Giorgio, LMFT

Legislative Chair

Utah Association of Marriage and Family Therapy