



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Family Science

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February 2nd, 2024

Amanda Darnley
The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
112 South Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Advocacy for Licensure Portability Model and Support of HB 628 and SB 409

Dear Ms. Darnley,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Couple and Family Therapy Master's Program at University of Maryland College Park to express our strongest support for bills HB 628 and SB 409 and overall AAMFT efforts to bring licensure portability across states.

At the University of Maryland we train students from different states and we remain in touch with them as alumni of our program. Alumni that have practiced for years and are experienced clinicians have always shared their concerns and painful stories when they want to apply for licensure in another state. By easing the requirements for clinical license across states, Maryland will benefit from bringing experienced marriage and family therapists to practice in the State.

Additionally and equally important is that passing legislation that will ease the requirements to obtain a clinical license for a practitioner that is already licensed in another state is key to breaking the barriers to apply for multiple licenses. In our current time where there is a national workforce shortage of mental health providers, particularly in Maryland, helping providers practice across state lines through Telehealth can contribute in a significant way to address the current mental health needs of our population.

Looking forward to continuous collaboration on advancing the Marriage and Family Therapy profession and allowing our colleagues to obtain licensure across states in the U.S.

Sincerely,

Mariana K. Falconier, PhD, LCMFT (MD), LMFT (VA)
Professor
Director, Couple and Family Therapy Master's Program
Department of Family Science
School of Public Health