



April 9, 2026

The Honorable Jessie Danielson
Chair
Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support for HB26-1228 – Marriage and Family Therapy Clinical Requirements

Dear Chair Danielson and Honorable Members of the Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), the national association representing the professional interests of more than 81,000 marriage and family therapists throughout the United States, including those in Colorado.

HB 26-1228 is scheduled for a hearing before your committee on April 9, and I would like to express our support for this legislation. The passage of HB26-1228 will be beneficial to the development of the MFT profession as well as the communities in which MFTs serve.

Current law prevents MFT graduates from registering as a candidate for licensure if their graduate degree program did not include a practicum in marriage and family therapy. This bill allows individuals whose graduate program did not include a practicum to register as LMFT candidates, but requires them to complete an additional 700 supervised clinical hours before becoming licensed as an LMFT.

Many universities do not provide the practicum hours necessary to pursue licensure post-graduation, and those MFT students are then left without a pathway to obtain their license. With the passage of this bill, those MFTs will have a pathway to obtain their license, despite not having practicum hours or sufficient support in seeking internship opportunities.

HB 26-1228 will also expand the ability of licensed professionals to serve underserved populations and underrepresented populations. MFTs have shared with AAMFT that many of the students who are encountering this barrier come from such communities.

The passage of this bill will create stability and longevity in the workforce by creating a pathway to licensure for more MFTs, thereby increasing the mental health workforce, which is especially important now given the current shortage of mental health professionals in the state.

We would like to thank Chair Danielson for serving as the Senate sponsor of this legislation. Please consider supporting this legislation when it is considered by your committee. Thank you in advance for considering our comments. If you need additional information, please contact me at rsmith@aamft.org.

Sincerely,



Roger D. Smith

Roger Smith
Chief Advocacy Officer
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

Senate Business, Labor, & Technology

04/09/2026

HB26-1228 Marriage & Family Therapy Clinical Requirements

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Amanda Phillips For themselves	My name is Amanda Phillips, MS, LAC, MFTC, CCS, and I am writing in support of HB26-1228 as I am a mental health clinician that has benefitted from a similar program as the one identified in this legislature. In 2023, when I graduated with my master's degree in psychology, it did not include a practicum or internship requirement, and I was not sure that I would be able to enter the field as a mental health professional. Thanks to similar legislature for addiction counselors, I was able to complete the non-conforming practicum and internship with Dr. Leslie, and have been a Licensed Addiction Counselor for over a year now. The program identified in this legislature benefits both consumers and providers of mental health services by providing an avenue to licensure that many universities do not include in their master's programs. This allows many more needed professionals to obtain the required education and experience to become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and enter the field that may not previously have had the opportunity to do so.
Jennifer Loucks For themselves	I am strongly in favor of bill HB26-1228. I received my master's degree in 2006 with poor supervisory experience resulting in me not obtaining an internship. As a result, I practiced as an unlicensed family therapist for 8 years in community mental health. I was unable to find a path that allowed me to gain an internship/practicum without going through an entire program, until I met dr. Leslie two years ago. I was able to get my internship through obtaining my LAC and then move forward with getting my MFTC. I have come across a number of well deserving therapists that have had similar experiences as myself that are passionate about helping individuals in need and in many cases have been working in the field. Passing this bill would allow for more therapists to provide support to underserved communities.