



February 29, 2016

Nick Norcross
Bureau of Medicaid Policy and Health System Innovation
Medicaid Services Administration
PO Box 30479
Lansing, MI 48909-7979

Re: Proposed Policy 1556-Enrollment of Marriage and Family Therapists as Medicaid Providers

Dear Mr. Norcross:

I am writing on behalf of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), the national professional association representing the professional interests of more than 62,000 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) throughout the United States. AAMFT is affiliated with the Michigan Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT), AAMFT's chapter that represents the interests of Family Therapists in Michigan.

AAMFT strongly supports the decision of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to enroll LMFTs as Medicaid providers. We agree with the Department's purpose for including LMFTs as Medicaid providers. We agree with the Department that the addition of LMFTs as Medicaid providers will provide greater access to care for behavioral health services for the Medicaid Fee-for-Service beneficiaries. Since there are over 700 clinicians in Michigan licensed as Family Therapists, many of whom work in rural locations, including LMFTs as independent Medicaid providers would increase beneficiaries' access to qualified behavioral health providers.

AAMFT fully supports the Department's proposed policy to include Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, along Psychologists, Social Workers and Professional Counselors, as providers who will be eligible to be directly reimbursed for covered behavioral health services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries. Thank you for providing AAMFT with a change to comment on this policy change. Please feel free to contact me at rsmith@aamft.org or at 703-253-0485 if you have any questions or if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Roger D. Smith, J.D.
Senior Attorney
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy