



Testimony before the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee-Thursday, February 15, 2018

Supporting H 350 -COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS – Amends existing law to revise licensure requirements for marriage and family therapists and associate marriage and family therapists.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Roberta Crockett, I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist practicing and residing in Boise. I am the Past-President of the Idaho Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. I am also a past member and chair of the Idaho State Licensing Board of Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists.

The Idaho Association for Marriage and Family Therapy supports H350 because we believe that it facilitates the Licensing Board's effort to keep current with the evolving standards and practices of the field. Making the licensing law more streamlined will keep the licensing process more efficient, and allow those who complete their education and training in marriage and family therapy, either in Idaho or in another state to be able to understand and anticipate the requirements for becoming licensed in Idaho.

Our organization often receives inquiries from those interested in entering the field. Since the current law is written towards standards that are now almost 20 years old, we frequently spend time helping applicants understand how their more recent program requirements translate into fitting the older guidelines. I know the Bureau of Occupational Licensing fields numerous calls of this sort as well.

I was involved in the original passage of the Marriage and Family Therapist licensing law in 2001, and I can see now that putting the specifics in Rules would have been wise. I appreciate that the Licensing Board and Bureau is taking this step now. To their credit they invited our organization and other stakeholders to be part of a subcommittee that drafted this change, and will also draft the rules to implement it, should it become law.

We ask for your support of this change in the law.
Thank you, Roberta Crockett, MA, LMFT