

**Testimony Before the
House Health and Human Services Committee
By
The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
February 1, 2018**

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2512. AAMFT represents the professional interests of over 62,000 Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the United States. MFTs diagnose and treat mental disorders using a holistic and systemic philosophy. AAMFT is affiliated with the Kansas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. AAMFT supports passage of House Bill 2512 as introduced.

House Bill 2512 would allow licensed mental health professionals and physicians to utilize telemedicine technology to deliver healthcare services to patients at a distant site. Telemedicine plays a crucial role in increasing access to healthcare services, particularly mental health services, in areas where practitioners are few. In addition to increasing access to healthcare service, telemedicine can reduce healthcare costs and improve outcomes by allowing patients to be treated earlier and reducing barriers to care. In rural areas, patients may be forced to travel long distances and may face long waits in order to receive treatment.

AAMFT urges your support of House Bill 2512 as introduced, and appreciates your consideration on this issue. Please feel free to contact Laura Evans, AAMFT Government Relations Manager, at levans@aamft.org or via phone at 703-253-0453 if you need additional information or have any questions.