



February 10, 2015

618 Church Street Suite 220
Nashville, TN 37219

To the Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

The Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapists (TNAMFT) stands in opposition to SB 1556.

This bill is in direct opposition to the ethical code of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), and potentially harmful to clients. Our mandate to “do no harm” to the consumer would be violated. The TNAMFT seeks to embody *diversity, equity, and excellence in clinical practice* as core values. SB 1556 compromises all of those values, and is likely to be discriminatory.

Furthermore, this provision is unnecessary as protocols are already in place for clinicians to communicate their biases or conflicts of interest as a function of informed consent.

Sincerely,

Robbie R. Hutchens, M.MFT, L.MFT
Chair, Legislative Committee
The Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy