

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass, and Members of Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Jorge Candiotti. I am a research biomedical engineer working at the Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL), an affiliation between University of Pittsburgh and the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. I have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of patients. I am writing in support of [HB1102], to create a Music Therapist Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for music therapy licensure in Maryland.

For me, I engaged with and listen to music all the time. Music can match my mood and/or change it depending on how I would like to feel. My personal experience with music has allowed me to understand the value of music therapy and the importance of addressing needs such as anxiety and overall well-being.

I believe that the establishment of music therapy licensure in Maryland will help ensure the quality of music therapy services. There is a significant difference between a board-certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, versus an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the required training and experience. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Maryland that this level of quality be assured through the creation of music therapy licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a Music Therapist Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for music therapy licensure by voting "yes" for [HB1102].

Sincerely,

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