

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

My name is Susan Magsamen and I am the Executive Director of the International Arts + Mind Lab at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. I have had the opportunity to work alongside board-certified music therapists and know the profound impact that music therapy has on the lives of people living with multiple diseases and disorders. 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.

We recently completed a study on the impact of guitar lessons on patients with Parkinson's disease. We found that guitar lessons not only improved physical functions like motor control and dexterity, it also improved mood and other measures of mental health. All of the participants were eager to continue the lessons after the study was complete.

I believe that the establishment of music therapy licensure in Maryland will help ensure that the patients at Johns Hopkins receive quality 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,

Susan Magsamen

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