

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

My name is Christopher B. Abbott and I am the Director of Information Technology working at Eastern Shore Hospital Center. While working at ESHC, I had the opportunity to work alongside board-certified music therapists and have been impressed with the clinical impact that music therapy has on the lives of the patients I serve. 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.

I, personally, am not a Therapist, but I am a musician with over 30 years of performance and production experience, and I understand the therapeutic qualities that music can achieve. I have seen, first hand, patients at ESHC who were unable to cope with their surroundings in a positive manner, or were unresponsive to other forms of therapy, flourish when placed in music therapy sessions. Once placed in music therapy sessions it was as if a switch, long since forgotten, had been turned on and, almost immediately, the patient began to display abilities and behaviors that, until that point, had gone unseen.

I believe that the establishment of music therapy licensure in Maryland will help ensure that the patients at Eastern Shore Hospital Center receive the highest 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,
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Director of IT
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