

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

My name is Ruthlee Figlure Adler. I am a Board Certified Music Therapist in private practice in Maryland. I am currently semi-retired, but for 30 years I created, maintained and directed the Music Therapy program at The Ivymount School in Rockville, MD serving over 200 students/clients with special needs, learning disabilities, emotional problems, developmental delays, autism and multiple handicaps. Students ranged from preschoolers to age 21. Through music therapy they were able to improve their cognitive abilities, gross and fine motor development, sensory integration, communication and social interaction skills and development. These specially designed music therapy experiences contributed to the mastery of their treatment goals and objectives, enhanced their coping skills, decreased anxiety, improved daily living skills as well as enabling their productive participation in the community.

I'm writing you and the Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee requesting your support of [HB1102], which will create a Music Therapist Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for music therapy licensure. This bill is needed:

TO PROTECT Maryland residents by ensuring that all individuals calling themselves music therapists in our state meet national standards for education, clinical training, certification, and continuing education;

TO IMPROVE access to music therapy services for Maryland residents by allowing institutions who require state recognition to provide those services; and

TO ADDRESS the confusion for healthcare facilities and Maryland residents regarding the difference between music therapists, music practitioners, music thanantologists, and other non-music therapy musicians in healthcare, such as speech-language pathologist.

A state license will provide employers with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

Please consider supporting the establishment of a music therapy licensure by voting YES for [HB1102].

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Ruthlee Figlure Adler, MT-BC
8209 Wahly Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817-3166
(301) 365-2886