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**Subject line:** In support of [HB1102]

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

My name is \_\_Catherine I Brophy, MD\_\_ and I am a physician working at Dunkirk Family Practice. While working at Dunkirk Family Practice, I had the opportunity to refer patients to a board certified music therapist 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 referred a stroke patient to a music therapist after other therapists did not help her. The music therapist after a few sessions had my patient talking and verbalizing again. This in turn also helped her depression. The music therapist has helped my autistic patients stay focused and cooperative in their care. My dementia patients receiving music therapy remain active and independent much longer.*

I believe that the establishment of music therapy licensure in Maryland will help ensure that the patients in our community 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,

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