

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

My name is Scott and I am 56 year old who was diagnosed at age 50 with a form of dementia and Parkinson Disease. I am writing to give my support to [HB1102] to create a Music Therapist Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for music therapy licensure which will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Maryland. This bill is important because it will allow Maryland citizens to more easily access music therapy services and it will protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

I have been receiving weekly Music Therapy Services from a MT-BC for about 4 and ½ years. My first Music Therapy session consisted of me trying to clap my hands to a simple beat. I was barely able to do this and was only able to complete a few minutes. Now I am able to play guitar, piano, mandolin and use hand drums for my 45 minute sessions.

In practical terms, Music Therapy has allowing to be able to:

1. Communicate verbally better. I can have conversations with people.
2. My balance has improved so that I am not a fall risk .
3. I am able to participate in social events and church without being completely overwhelmed.
4. I have not needed to be put into a long term care facility.

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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