

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

My name is Haylee Goodenough and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Maryland. At The Kennedy Krieger Institute LEAP School Program, I serve 62 clients within the special education school community. Music therapy offers an opportunity for the students to engage in music and fosters building meaningful relationships with peers and staff. Music therapy in special education can address communication skills, social skills, academic concepts, activities of daily living, motor skills, self-regulation skills, self-expression, and so much more.

I ask you to please support [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 thanatologists, 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 licensure by voting YES for [HB1102].

Sincerely,

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