

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

My name is Shevonne Matthews and I am a social worker working at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center (CTPHC). While working at CTPHC, 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 have several patients in my caseload that, initially, were not open to talk therapy and expressing how they felt in regards to their current situation and childhood upbringing. After attending several music oriented therapy groups and/or individual music therapy, I have been able to see the wall they had once built crumble. They are now able to put words to their feelings in a constructive way that allows for healing and moving forward. Music is our one universal language and I think it is an integral part to helping our patients and families. Without this resource, I would find it very difficult to break the ice and begin helping many of my patients.

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

--

Shevonne Matthews, LMSW

Social Worker I - Ward 3 South
Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center
8450 Dorsey Run Road, Jessup, MD 20794
email: shevonney.matthews@maryland.gov
Telephone: (410) 724-3131
Fascimilie: (410)-724-3158