

Email to: Shane E. Pendergrass shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us; MDSTF mdstate.task.force@gmail.com

Subject line: In Support of [HB1102]

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

My name is Kelly Phair and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Maryland. At Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care of MD, I routinely have a caseload of 30-40 patients within the hospice community. In hospice care, music therapy addresses physical, cognitive, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs often at the same time. People often have a lifelong relationship with music, and music therapists have the privilege of helping patients connect into this resource to address pain, respiratory issues, agitation, depression, and questions regarding end of life. Music also accompanies the memories and joyful moments that arise in hospice care as well. I enjoy working with social workers, nurses, chaplains, aids and doctors to enhance the end of life experience for patients and families.

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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