

Testimony: Tatyana Martin, MT-BC
March 5, 2020
Health and Government Operations Committee
HB 1102- Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists- Music Therapists Act

Chairwoman Pendergrass and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, my name is Tatyana Martin and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist. I currently work at the Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center and serve as the Co-Chair of the Maryland Music Therapy State Task Force for Occupational Regulation.

Our national association is responsible for maintaining standards for education, clinical training, practice, professional competencies, and a Code of Ethics. As stated in our Scope of Practice, we do not diagnose, nor conduct assessments of disorders or conditions. Board certified music therapists are highly skilled musicians who are trained in how to use live and recorded music to analyze and respond to clients' non-verbal, verbal, emotional and physiological responses. Our curriculum consists of 4 years of coursework and 1,200 supervised clinical hours. Music therapists take national board certification exam administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. This gives the credential "MT-BC" Music Therapist Board Certified. To maintain this credential and comply with CBMT Code of Professional Practice, 100 hours of continuing education is completed every five years. All music therapy degree programs must be approved by the American Music Therapy Association and are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

At Clifton T. Perkins I work in maximum, medium, and minimum security, providing music therapy groups and individual sessions addressing symptoms and supporting their process through their legal issues. Many of our patients experience complex trauma, depression, anxiety, and thought disorders. However, music therapy effectively addresses difficult emotions, coping skills, interpersonal relationships, and developing insight. Interventions include songwriting, improvisation, singing/rapping, lyric analysis, and music relaxation. Music therapists contribute important clinical information to treatment teams, medical records, and evaluators.

State licensure will protect consumers and create access to services to vulnerable Marylanders, while title protection alone won't. Third parties look for state licensure. Acknowledging that other professions may have questions and concerns, please note that we have been working with our opposition since 2017 on a state and national level. We have reached bill language compromises in other states and this language is included in our bill. New Jersey and Virginia passed legislation this past month.

Thank you for your consideration.