

Testimony: CJ Shiloh, MT-BC
Neurologic Music Therapist - Fellow

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Health and Government Operations Committee

HB 1102- Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists- Music Therapists Act

Good afternoon Madame Chair Pendergrass and HGO committee members, my name is CJ Shiloh. I am a Board Certified Music Therapist with advanced training in Neurologic Music Therapy. I am the owner of Annapolis Music Therapy Services. I'd like to start by personally inviting each one of you to come visit my clinic any time you are in Annapolis. We are located just off of Chinquapin Road Rd. I sublease space from Annapolis Children's Therapy Center which provides Speech and Occupational therapies, we have a wonderful working partnership and have opportunity to co-treat with these related, yet different, disciplines from time to time.

My company has 6 employees, 4 full time and 1 part time who are Board Certified Music Therapists. We have over 150 contracts across central Maryland serving well over 500 individuals per month. You can find my employees working in many assisted living communities working with older adults in memory care, in public schools across Anne Arundel county as well as a presence in PG and Caroline counties, providing IEP based music therapy services. We have a brand new music therapy program rolling out this year at Anne Arundel Medical Center right here in Annapolis, starting first in Oncology, with strategic goals of the hospital to expand to other departments including the new mental health campus. We also have an incredible partnership with Argo Counseling and Wellness right here in Annapolis, but I will let Emma Rogers tell you a little more about that in a moment.

Nationally, there are 8601 MT-BCs. Out of that number, 5936 are at a Bachelor level, 2408 at a Master and 257 at a Doctoral level. In MD, this translates to: out of 148 MT-BCs, 105 are at a Bachelor level, 38 have a Masters and 6 have Doctorate degrees. It is true, and our opposition will be very quick to point out, that our field is a Bachelor level entry profession. Because of this, the opposition claims that there would be confusion to the public by including us under their Board when the other disciplines they regulate are all Masters level entry. But I do want to point out that many professions, say Registered Nurses for example, do not have a Masters level entry and the level of clarity and respect for RNs in the public domain are not disputed.

With the remaining moments I have left, I'd like to add that in the public school system, in order for music therapists to be hired as employees, they are required to have a teaching certificate instead of the MT-BC being recognized. Although music therapists are invited to come in and provide professional development they cannot actually be hired by the Board of Education, except contractually, because we do not have a license.