

March 5, 2020

RE: HB1102

Madame Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Judy Simpson. I am a board certified music therapist and serve as the Director of Government Relations for the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA). Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of HB1102.

The profession of music therapy was started within the Veterans' Administration healthcare system following World Wars I and II when musicians offered successful interventions to soldiers diagnosed with what we know today as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Our national association was founded in 1950, and is responsible for maintaining standards in music therapy education, clinical training, practice, professional competencies and a Code of Ethics.

Music therapy is a nationally recognized allied health profession with over 70 years of clinical history in the United States.

The United States Code lists music therapy as a disease prevention and health promotion service and as a supportive service under Title 42: The Public Health and Welfare, as a part of the Older Americans Act.

The United States Code lists music therapy as a complementary and integrative health treatment to be considered for addressing veterans' mental health issues under Title 38: Veterans' Benefits.

Music therapy is listed on the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) schedule under Professional and Allied Healthcare Staffing Services.

The U.S. Department of Labor O-NET program includes Music Therapists in its occupation database.

Music therapists are eligible to apply for the National Provider Identifier system established as a HIPAA requirement. Music therapists are categorized under "Respiratory, Developmental, Rehabilitative and Restorative Service Providers".

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recognizes music therapy for Medicare reimbursement in Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHP).

CMS also recognizes music therapy on the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 assessment tool utilized in skilled and residential nursing facilities.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes music therapy as a related service under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and can be included on a student's

Individual Education Plan (IEP) if found necessary for a child to benefit from his/her special education program.

Despite these examples of national recognition within healthcare and education, consumers continue to encounter misrepresentation of the profession from non-qualified individuals and consistently experience barriers to service access due to the lack of inclusion of the profession and its national board certification credential within state statute and agency regulations. Passage of HB1102 will address these consumer issues by creating a music therapy license, ensuring professional competency across all clinical practice areas.

On a personal note, I am the parent of a daughter diagnosed with autism and our family lived in Montgomery County, Maryland when we first moved to this area. Unfortunately, because music therapy and its national board certification credential is not officially recognized by the state, we were unable to access music therapy within my daughter's special education program, despite having the service listed on her Individual Education Plan from her previous school in St. Louis, Missouri. As a result, we ended up moving to the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia so that my daughter could receive the education services she needed.

With any proposed change in occupational regulation, the music therapy community understands that our peers in other rehabilitation professions may have questions. Acknowledging that you may hear from representatives of these professions, I would like to take the opportunity to alleviate any concerns and demonstrate the good faith efforts we have made over the past five years in other states to reach compromises within bill language so that consumers benefit from the collaborative and interdisciplinary team approach that exists among our professions at the clinical level. HB1102 already includes language within the music therapy definition that has been adopted in other states and which was specifically based upon requests for clarification received from other professional associations. I am confident that any questions you might receive from comparable healthcare professions can also be addressed successfully in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of HB1102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Simpson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Judy Simpson, MT-BC  
Managed Healthcare Professional Director of Government Relations

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