



The Certification Board for Music Therapists

506 East Lancaster Avenue, Suite 102
Downingtown, PA 19335
800-765-CBMT (2268)
Fax 610-269-9232
www.cbmt.org

March 5, 2020

Re: HB1102

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

My name is Dr. Dena Register and I am the Regulatory Affairs Advisor for the Certification Board for Music Therapists and an Associate Professor of Music Therapy at West Virginia University. Thank you for the opportunity to address the issue of education and clinical training of music therapists as related to HB1458.

While nearly all humans feel connection and response to various kinds of music, the deliberate use of music by a trained professional transcends the elementary, personal use of music as a mere modality to elevate one's mood, motivate particular behaviors or access memories. Music therapists are degreed professionals that complete comprehensive and rigorous coursework and clinical training. Board certified music therapists are highly skilled musician who are trained to independently analyze and respond to client's non-verbal, verbal, emotional and physiological responses to music. Our education prepares us to use live and recorded music to respond to observable, measurable patient responses in order to be clinically effective and refrain from contra-indicated practices. As clearly stated in our Scope of Practice, we neither diagnose, nor conduct assessments of disorders or conditions.

All music therapy degree programs must be approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org) and are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM, <http://nasm.arts-accredit.org/>).

In terms of curriculum, music therapy students are required to complete four years (or it's equivalent) of coursework and a minimum of 1,200 supervised clinical hours. Upon completion of these the requirements, music therapists are eligible to take a national board certification exam administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT, www.cbmt.org). This national exam is based upon specific clinical domains, and upon passage, MT-BCs adhere to the Scope of Music Therapy Practice. Upon successful completion of the CBMT exam, the credential "MT-BC"--Music Therapist Board Certified--is issued. The CBMT became fully accredited in 1986 by National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and is a subsidiary of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). In order to maintain this credential, music therapists must complete 100 hours of continuing education every five years, and abide by the CBMT Code of Professional Practice.

Officially recognizing music therapy, through state licensure, would protect consumers in Maryland by limiting the potential for harm to citizens, by ensuring that only those *qualified* therapists can call themselves “music therapists” or say they offer “music therapy.” Music therapy licensure would allow employers, potential employers, and private citizens to feel confident in the training and education of the music therapists they employ to work with their loved ones. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and creating access to services for some of Maryland’s most vulnerable citizens.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dena Register". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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