

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

My name is Freeman Martin and I am a laborer. I had the opportunity to see firsthand a board certified music therapist in action. I have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of patients. I am writing in support of [HB1102], to create a Music Therapist Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for music therapy licensure in Maryland.

I have seen music therapy help people get better and regain their will to live. It also helps people reclaim their train of thought. For example, Gabby Giffords regained her speech by having music therapy when she was shot. Music therapy helped me recognize there are other ways of communicating with other people as my daughter is a music therapist.

I believe that the establishment of music therapy licensure in Maryland will help ensure the quality of music therapy services. There is a significant difference between a board-certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, versus an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the required training and experience. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Maryland that this level of quality be assured through the creation of music therapy licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a Music Therapist Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for music therapy licensure by voting "yes" for [HB1102].

Sincerely,

Freeman Martin Jr.
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