

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

My name is Anastasia Martin and I am a Registered Dietitian working at Mercy Medical Center. 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.

In high school I volunteered with a music therapist. I worked within autistic children who had various needs such as behavior issues, emotions difficulties, and language and speech challenges. Music therapy was extremely beneficial in these kids lives. Their faces lit up when they engaged in singing, music and movement, playing instruments, and music relaxation. These experiences addressed so many goals including shaping behaviors, increasing coping skills, and increasing communication. There was a child that I worked with who was non-verbal when I first met her. However, with music therapy, she began talking and was able to communicate verbally by the end of my time working with her. Music therapy such be valued and respected as a clinical profession with licensure!

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,
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