

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

My name is Pedro Marin and I am the parent of a son with autism/non-verbal. I am writing to give my support to [HB1102] to create a Music Therapist Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for music therapy licensure which will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist -board certified) national credential in Maryland. This bill is important because it will allow Maryland citizens to more easily access music therapy services and it will protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

My child Daniel Marin-Garcia has received music therapy services for 2 ½ years. Daniel started music therapy through the advice of the AACPS. It took a few sessions for Daniel to get used to the therapy, but we did start noticing how his mood changed. As stated earlier Daniel is non-verbal with a word bank of 1-3 one syllable words, so it is hard to tell how Daniel feels when he is upset. We have learned to introduce music therapy (through training) to calm him. Our current insurance does not pay for this type of therapy, so we have paid out of pocket or used grant money for the therapy.

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,

Pedro Marin