

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

My name is Roxalana Martin and I am a Senior Development Chemist working at PPG Industries. 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 but most importantly with my sister. 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.

My sister who passed away several years ago had cancer and engaged in music therapy. She experienced chronic pain as she went through chemotherapy treatments. Music was a huge part of her life and when she sang and listened to music it gave her so much joy, bringing a smile to her face. I could tell that when she engaged in music therapy it was beautiful to see her receive relief from her pain. Even the day before she passed away, she was not able to move part of her body but her feet, but when the music therapist played songs, she liked she moved those feet to the music. Music therapy gave my sister quality of life and decreased her pain.

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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