

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

My name is Brianna Webster and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Maryland at Shady Grove Behavioral Health. I serve inpatient and outpatient behavioral health populations aged child to senior adult with a variety of mental health diagnoses. Music therapy has made an enormous impact on the lives of people that I serve by providing opportunities for healthy self-expression, emotional regulation and release, and positive experiences with music in a therapeutic context. Music therapy addresses a variety of treatment goals including: boosting self-confidence, increasing self-awareness and insight for patients with mood disorders, and providing reality orientation for patients living with psychosis related disorders.

I ask you to please support [HB1102], which will create a Music Therapist Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for music therapy licensure. This bill is needed:

TO PROTECT Maryland residents by ensuring that all individuals calling themselves music therapists in our state meet national standards for education, clinical training, certification, and continuing education;

TO IMPROVE access to music therapy services for Maryland residents by allowing institutions who require state recognition to provide those services; and

TO ADDRESS the confusion for healthcare facilities and Maryland residents regarding the difference between music therapists, music practitioners, music thanatologists, and other non-music therapy musicians in healthcare, such as speech-language pathologist.

A state license will provide employers with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities. Please consider supporting the establishment of a licensure by voting YES for [HB1102].

Sincerely,

Brianna M. Webster, MT- BC

Board Certified Music Therapist

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Expressive Therapist, [Shady Grove Behavioral Health](#)