

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

My name is Kristina Wyatt and I am an occupational therapist working at Clifton T Perkins Hospital Center. (CTPHC). While working at CTPHC, I have the opportunity to work alongside board certified music therapists and have been impressed with the clinical impact that music therapy has on the lives of the patients I serve. 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 often hear from patients how important their music therapy groups are to their recovery and in increasing positive engagement with their lives. Music Therapy serves to decrease anxiety and trauma responses, and to increase the ability to cope with life stressors. Patients gain more self-confidence and interact with others in more positive ways.

I believe that the establishment of music therapy licensure in Maryland will help to ensure that the patients at CTPHC receive quality 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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Kristina Wyatt, OTR/L, SEP
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