

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

My name is James Stewart and 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.

It wasn't but a few years ago that I lost a relative to cancer who in his final weeks at the hospice was receiving treatment through music from a music therapist. He was very appreciative, alert and at peace with himself. I firmly believe that music therapist contributes to the wellbeing of mental health and autistic patients.

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,

James F. Stewart II,
Teacher

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