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Howard County

Health Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health Facilities

Insurance

Pharmaceuticals



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 4, 2026

Health Committee

Testimony in Support of HB 7: State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Authority to Issue Limited Licenses to Practice Music Therapy

Good Afternoon Madame Chair, Madame Vice-Chair and Members of the Health Committee. For the record my name is Delegate Pam Guzzone representing District 13 of Howard County.

I am here today in support of HB 7 which adds a limited license for Music Therapists to practice in Maryland while working toward their certification exam.

The limited license for Music Therapists will function in a manner similar to one all the other professions under this Board for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech- Language Pathologists enjoy.

Under current law, Music therapists cannot practice in Maryland before passing the national certification exam for Music Therapists and earning a full license from the Board. A limited license allows qualified professionals to provide care and gain important experience while under the direct supervision of a fully licensed Music Therapist.

By removing barriers to entry, the limited license expands the workforce and increases the accessibility to music therapy. The work experience, support from the supervising practitioner, and additional time to prepare for the national certification exam strengthen the limited license holder's ability to successfully pass the exam necessary for full licensure status.

Adding a limited license will create a more efficient licensure process as well as support Music Therapists and the important care they provide patients. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 7.