



MARYLAND ACADEMY OF
AUDIOLOGY

Maryland Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 710

Parkville, MD 21234

<https://maaudiology.org/>

The Honorable Chair Heather A. Bagnall
Health Committee
Lowe House Office Building
Room 240
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 29, 2026

Re: **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**

POSITION: SUPPORT

Madam Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) respectfully **supports** House Bill 7, which establishes limited licensure provisions for music therapists, thereby aligning their licensure framework with the existing structures for audiologists, speech-language pathologists (SLPs), and hearing aid dispensers (HADs).

The limited licensure pathway for audiologists serves as a relevant model for this legislation. Under current Maryland law, individuals who have completed didactic requirements through an accredited Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) program may obtain limited licensure while completing mandatory supervised professional experience or awaiting examination results. This framework requires direct supervision by a fully licensed audiologist and establishes a clear, structured pathway toward full professional licensure.

The limited licensure mechanism preserves the Board of Examiners' regulatory authority to review applications, assess appropriate fees, and exercise disciplinary oversight, when warranted. This regulatory structure protects public welfare while facilitating professional development.

House Bill 7 would establish comparable provisions for music therapists, creating an evidence-based pathway for qualified individuals to complete licensure requirements, under appropriate supervision. This approach promotes professional standards, ensures public protection, and



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supports workforce development in a manner consistent with established healthcare professions.

The Maryland Academy of Audiology respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report on House Bill 7.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
Legislative Chair, MAA