

Pennsylvania House Professional Licensure Committee Public Hearing  
March 22, 2016

Testimony of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association

House Bill 1438 - Professional Music Therapist Licensure Act

As president of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association ("PPTA"), a professional association representing over 3,000 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in the Commonwealth, I ask that you please allow this letter to serve as the PPTA's testimony regarding House Bill 1438 ("HB 1438") and include this letter as part of the official record of the House Professional Licensure Committee ("Committee") Public Hearing of March 22, 2016. HB 1438 is of interest to the PPTA and its members relative to the scope of services proposed to be provided by a licensed professional music therapist.

The PPTA's primary concern with HB 1438 relates to the definition of "music therapy" and, more specifically, those "interventions" that are excluded from the definition of "music therapy" under the proposed language. The PPTA believes that the exclusionary language, currently contained in the last sentence of the definition of music therapy, should be amended to further clarify additional interventions that fall outside of the defined term. The PPTA believes that, in addition to expressly excluding the "diagnosis of any physical, mental or communication disorder", it should be clarified that music therapy does not include the *treatment* of such disorders or the diagnosis or treatment of any impairment, illness, disease or disability for which a license to practice physical therapy or another practice of the healing arts is required. The addition of such language would strengthen HB 1438 in that it would more clearly describe, for the benefit of clients receiving music therapy and others, the scope of interventions provided by licensed professional music therapists. The proposed language would also be more consistent with what the PPTA understands to be the training and education of music therapists.

In summary, the PPTA has limited concerns with HB 1438 which relate primarily to a desire to clarify those interventions which do not fall within the definition of music therapy as set forth in the legislation. Should the Committee desire, the PPTA would welcome the opportunity to work with members of the Committee, Representative Pashinski, and other parties of interest on proposed language to address the PPTA's concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions regarding the PPTA's position on HB 1438.

Very truly yours,

PENNSYLVANIA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

By: /s/ Gregory L. Waite  
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