

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Elaine Abbott and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I am the program director for the Bachelor of Science degree program in music therapy at Duquesne University. Our program has 32 undergraduate students in it this year and is growing from freshmen classes with an average of seven students to an average of fourteen students. These increases will effectively double the size of our program over the next three years.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

I have talked with community members who are excited about the potentials of playing music for various vulnerable populations, find out about the music therapy program at Duquesne, and come to me for advice. One example of this was a brass quintet, the members of who wanted to apply for grants to play music on dementia units in the area. They wanted to find jobs for their instrumentalists while providing service to people in need. The difficulty was that they did not understand the needs of people with dementia, the possibility of catastrophic reactions to such loud music in a small space, nor how to deal with those reactions. I spoke with them about these issues and they understood the difficulty of the situation. I am very glad they came to speak with me, but I’m concerned with the possibility that there are other community members with these intentions and without resources for consultation.

A state licensure for music therapy will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities. They would provide consolation for community members in these situations and positive outcomes for clients.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Elaine

Elaine A. Abbott, PhD, MT-BC
Associate Professor and Director of Music Therapy
Duquesne University
Mary Pappert School of Music - Room 104
600 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15282
412.396.5578

From: Catherine Abrams <catherinedaahling@yahoo.com>
Date: Mar 16, 2016 9:20 PM
Subject: In support of HB 1438
To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>
Cc: "akelly@pahousehop.com" <akelly@pahousehop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Catherine Abrams and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist in Pennsylvania. I have worked in skilled nursing facilities, psychiatric hospitals, and most recently, hospice in Pennsylvania. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Recently, I was unable to apply to a music therapy job because the wording of the grant funded position required licensure. I hold a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Music Therapy, hours upon hours of clinical supervision, and I have maintained my professional certification since 1998. Despite having ample qualifications for the job, licensure prevented me from applying.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

Please support HB 1438.

Sincerely,

Catherine Abrams, MMT, MT-BC

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Bennii Gatlin-Ali and I am a Social worker working at Magee Women's Hospital (MWH). While working at MWH, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists. I have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board. Provide information on how you have seen music therapy impact patient progress towards their treatment goals, quality of life, decrease pain, decrease anxiety, increase coping, etc. I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at MWH remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional Music Therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,
Bennii Gatlin- Ali
BSW
300 Halket Street
Pittsburgh PA 15213
bcg28 @pitt.edu

Mon 3/14/2016 12:09 PM

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Robert Arnold, and I am a physician working at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). While working at UPMC, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Patients love music therapy. Patients often tell me how music therapy helped them cope with the stress of their illness. Families also report that it helps them relive wonderful memories with their loved ones and helps them through the grieving process.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at UPMC remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Robert Arnold, MD
University of Pittsburgh and UPMC
Professor of Medicine
Chief, Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics
Director, Institute for Doctor-Patient Communication
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Medical Director, UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute
200 Lothrop Street, 933W
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
rabob@pitt.edu

Brenda K. Sperski
Administrative Coordinator
University of Pittsburgh
Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics
Division of General Internal Medicine
3600 Forbes Avenue
Suite 405 Iroquois Building
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[*sperskibk@upmc.edu*](mailto:sperskibk@upmc.edu)
Phone 412-692-4834
Fax 412-692-4315



**DUQUESNE
UNIVERSITY**

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
511 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

600 FORBES AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15282
TEL. 412.396.6054
FAX 412.396.5811

March 18, 2016

Rep. Julie Harhart
Chairwoman
House Professional Licensure Committee

As a .pdf attachment to jharhart@pahousegop.com

Dear Chair Harhart and Members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

I write on behalf of Duquesne University to urge your support of HB 1438, which will provide for the creation of a music therapy licensure board and thus protect citizens in the Commonwealth who seek professional services in this important and growing field.

Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music is proud to train highly competent service providers in this discipline and awards them the degree of Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy. Formal state licensure would add to this valuable academic credential a level of governmental review that is entirely appropriate in a critical field such as this.

As in other key domains, state licensure will also serve the public good by certifying to employers and clients alike that each provider is thoroughly trained, well equipped, and (on an ongoing basis) held to high standards of ethics and professional practice.

Thank you for your work in considering this legislation. I look forward to learning that it has passed out of your committee.

Yours most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Austin', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Timothy R. Austin
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Gina Bagnoli and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania.

I am employed by the Ellwood City Hospital, working in a Geriatric Psych Unit in Ellwood City, PA.

I serve approximately 100-150 patients in a typical year depending on length of stay. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program"(AMTA www.musictherapy.org).

Working in a geriatric setting, it is crucial to have personnel that are trained to handle the potential hazards and risks that come with the fragility of age, dementia and psychiatric diagnoses. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Sincerely,

Gina Bagnoli
194 Olde Colony Drive
New Castle, PA 16105
724-944-2487
gja3@comcast.net

From: Becky Bair <BBair@villastjoseph.org>
Date: Mar 18, 2016 9:34 AM
Subject: PA music Licensure
To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>
Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Rebecca Bair and I am an Occupational Therapy Assistant working at Villa St. Joseph, a rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility in Baden Pennsylvania, which also provides outpatient services. While working, I have had the opportunity to work alongside a music therapist and music therapy students, as well as co-treat with a board certified music therapist. I have experienced the clinical impact that music therapy has made with the patients on my caseload while co-treating, and witnessed the benefits and increased quality of life it provides to both our short and long term residents. Music therapy has been effective with facilitating increased range of motion, gross and fine motor planning, postural control and alignment as well as other neuromuscular components needed to restore function and promote independence with activities of daily living. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Villa St. Joseph remains the same. Our board certified music therapist treats and works with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, versus an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" is significant. Without the proper training, experience and qualifications, and uncertified music therapist can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients in a medical treatment setting. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality is assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bair, COTA/L
Villa St. Joseph
BBair@villastjoseph.org



March 10, 2016

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Kristyn Beeman and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I am the managing partner of WB Music Therapy, LLC, a small private practice in Harrisburg. WB Music Therapy provides services to a variety of individuals, both children and adults with diagnoses including Autism Spectrum Disorders, Cerebral Palsy, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Alzheimer's disease, Dementia, seizure disorders, anxiety disorders, depression, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, among others. We provide individual and group therapy and serve approximately 150 clients per week.

Music therapy is the use of music to achieve **non-musical** goals. There is a scientific, well-thought out treatment plan that begins with an assessment for each individual, the therapist paying careful attention to ensuring quality service by learning about the individual's strengths, needs, and preferences. **It is vital for the profession of music therapy to be licensed.**

On numerous occasions, I have been told by facilities, "we already have music therapy" and after further research, what they do have is someone providing music entertainment. Licensure **WILL NOT** prevent musicians from entertaining in facilities but it will clarify the differences among the various music providers that work in Pennsylvania.

Last week, a teacher informed me that one of her students, who has been newly diagnosed with Autism, had a severe "melt down" when an in-home therapist (not a music therapist) used music to assist in trying to regulate his behavior. The child became severely agitated and began engaging in self-injurious behavior. This may have been prevented if a music therapist was providing the service versus someone attempting a therapeutic music intervention without the proper training, knowledge, and expertise. How would you feel if this was your son or daughter and the situation could have been avoided? ***WE NEED TO INSURE QUALITY SERVICES BY OFFERING BOARD-CERTIFIED AND LICENSED MUSIC THERAPISTS.***

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to vote "yes" for HB 1438 to create a music therapy licensure board which will in turn, protect consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Kristyn D. Beeman MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist
Managing Partner of WB Music Therapy
(717) 514-8160
kdwbmt@gmail.com
www.wbmusictherapy.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Dr. Gene Ann Behrens and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I am director of the music therapy program at Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA; I have taught at the college for 19 years. Each year I have about 45-50 first year through senior music therapy students in the program. In addition to the music, music therapy, psychology, and biology coursework that the students take, music therapy students also complete clinical experiences throughout their coursework training. This is one of the strengths at Elizabethtown College, as the students begin observing sessions in our on-campus clinic their first two semesters; are in the clinic learning to help, observe, take data, and write reports the third semester; and then each conduct five semesters of practicum coursework. In addition, I began senior capstone sessions for my senior students several years ago where they elect to take on an additional client or group in our on-campus clinic throughout their senior year that is outside their coursework; I also supervise those sessions. We serve approximately 20-24 clients in our on-campus clinic each year. In addition, the students have clinical placements at Masonic Village Elizabethtown, a special education classroom at Kunkel Elementary School, Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute in Harrisburg, Hershey Medical Center, and Lancaster General Hospital. Students in those clinical experiences serve approximately 60-70 additional clients each semester. Through their volunteer work in special projects, the students serve another 275 individuals each year. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

As an educator, I frequently get calls from facilities, especially those serving older adults, asking if I would send students to their facilities for internships or clinical experiences. When I ask if they have a trained music therapist to supervise the students, I have had directors say “no but that won’t matter – no one will know.” Often these facilities are looking for music therapy as they understand its value, but will not fund a position. They often then turn to music volunteers who will come in to play for them or who will attempt to conduct sessions without being trained. The potential for causing harm is high.

One of the other newer trends based on misinterpreted research is the general use of headphone music to calm down older adults in extended care facilities. This is being implemented without a trained music therapists who would conduct assessments and evaluations to determine preferences and the influence. Can you imagine having headphones placed on you, at a volume that does not agree with you, and having to listen to music that agitates you. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Gene Ann Behrens, PhD, MT-BC
Professor, Music Therapy
Director, Music Therapy Program
Department of Fine and Performing Arts
Elizabethtown College
717-361-1991
behrenga@etown.edu
www.etown.edu/fapa

Chair, Global Crises Intervention Commission
World Federation of Music Therapy
crises@wfmt.info

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Ken Beiler and I am an NHA working at Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley. While working at Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists (or co-treated with a board certified music therapist) and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Provide information on how you have seen music therapy impact patient progress towards their treatment goals, quality of life, decrease pain, decrease anxiety, increase coping, etc.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a “music therapist” who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Ken Beiler, NHA, CASP
Executive Director
Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley
6300 Greene Street Philadelphia, PA 19144

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. - Maya Angelou

 WESLEY ENHANCED LIVING
at Stapeley

From: "Dr. Stephen Benham" <benham@duq.edu>
Date: Mar 19, 2016 12:52 PM
Subject: In support of HB 1438
To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>
Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Stephen Benham and I am the Associate Dean at the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Our program has 32 undergraduate students in it this year and is growing from freshmen classes with an average of seven students to an average of fourteen students. These increases will effectively double the size of our program over the next three years, underscoring the marketplace need for music therapists and also the importance of high-quality training programs where students are prepared for board-certification.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

There is a distinct difference between music therapy as a science and as part of the medical field and those who simply provide or participate in music activities as general entertainment or stress release. Though both are helpful, the extent to which a highly qualified, board-certified music therapist can provide medical guidance and long-term advice for health and wellness (physically, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually) far exceeds the limited, shorter-term benefits that come from simple exposure to music.

A state licensure for music therapy will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities. Licensure would identify these music therapists' competence and allow community members to recognize where to turn for consultation in situations such as the one described. This has the potential to decrease distressing outcomes for clients and increase positive outcomes.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Stephen Benham

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Stephen Benham, Ph.D.
*Associate Dean
Associate Professor of Music Education
Coordinator, String Area
President, American String Teachers Association*

Mary Pappert School of Music
Duquesne University
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15282

Office phone: 412.396.1887
Fax: 412.396.5479
E-mail: benham@duq.edu
Twitter: @SJBenham

www.duq.edu/music
www.astaweb.com

Angela Kelly

From: Bright Beginnings <brightbeginningscc@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 12:29 PM
To: Julie Harhart; Angela Kelly; Wayne Crawford; paststate.task.force@gmail.com
Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee,

Good afternoon,

I am the owner and director of Bright Beginnings Child Development Center, Inc. in West Hanover Township, Harrisburg. At my facility, I have the pleasure of working directly with board certified music therapists and have been impressed with the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of young children in my care. I am writing to you today in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

When a child has behavioral issues beyond the norm where further intervention is necessary, early childhood professionals often seek out support from the intermediate unit or mental health consultants. In our case, we sought out the help of board certified music therapists. Through music therapy, the behaviorally challenged children were able to express themselves with much greater ease and at their own comfort level. I saw children making great strides in a positive environment given choices and consequences relevant to their behaviors. This method of behavior management was effective! I support it entirely. The children's coping skills were improved, their problem solving skills also greatly improved and their anxiety with peer interactions lessened greatly. The board certified music therapists understand early childhood development and put to use this knowledge when working with the children.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Bright Beginnings Child Development Center, Inc. remain the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our children routinely. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist", who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress, growth and development of young children. It is vital to all children in PA that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Amy P. Bennett

Early Education Director

Bright Beginnings Child Development Center, Inc.

www.brightbeginningsinc.com

717-671-8810

From: Marg Bodnar [<mailto:MBodnar@villastjoseph.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>
Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Marg Bodnar and I am an Occupational Therapist working at Villa St. Joseph, a rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility in Baden Pennsylvania, which also provides outpatient services. While working, I have had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists, as well as cotreat with a board certified music therapist. I have experienced the clinical impact that music therapy has made with the patients on my caseload while cotreating, and witnessed the benefits and increased quality of life it provides to both our short and long term residents. Music therapy has been effective with facilitating increased range of motion, gross and fine motor planning, postural control and alignment as well as other neuromuscular components needed to restore function and promote independence with activities of daily living. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Villa St. Joseph remains the same. Our board certified music therapist treats and works with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, versus an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" is significant. Without the proper training, experience and qualifications, and uncertified music therapist can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients in a medical treatment setting. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality is assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Marg Bodnar
Occupational Therapist
Villa St. Joseph of Baden, Inc.
1030 State Street, Baden, PA 15005
Phone 724-869-6346 Fax 724-869-2021
Email: mbodnar@villastjoseph.org
Please visit our new website www.villastjoseph.org



Villa St. Joseph is proud to announce that we have been selected as one of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's "Top 100 Workplaces."

Villa St. Joseph is a place of healing committed to excellence in compassionate care serving the health needs of older adults, as well as those in the wider community in need of our expanding services.

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Vanessa Bohner and I am the parent of a son and daughter with autism. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

Our 3 children have received music therapy services for the past 4 years. Our children have always struggled with peer relationships and emotional regulation as well as significant anxiety. We sought out music therapy support when they were still young and it has made a huge impact on our family dynamics and our children's ability to handle stress and respond to each positively. All three children are on the autism spectrum and have needed therapeutic support to be successful. We have seen a direct impact on their skills after their participation in group sessions as well as individual therapy sessions. Before we started therapy our son would often hit his sisters or melt down when faced with conflict. He is now able to process how he feels and is also making progress on communicating that to his sisters. Our daughters both have severe anxiety which has impacted their health and school progress. Our therapist has worked with them in this area and helped them find strategies that have helped them stay calm and work through their anxiety. The most beneficial aspect of this therapy experience is our ability to have this service in our home. Our children have been very successful in structured environments but would often come home and fall apart before we started music therapy. Our therapist has worked with us as a family unit also and has provided amazing support and tools to help us throughout the week outside of therapy. Having a music therapist work with our kids hasn't just been a 'good thing' it has been an invaluable experience that has given us hope and opened the door for our children to be successful in so many ways that wouldn't have happened otherwise.

Unfortunately at this time insurance will not cover music therapy in the home, the environment where we need it the most. We have made it a financial priority to pay for this service for all three kids but it has limited our resources as a family.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Bohner
3813 Darby Rd
Harrisburg, PA 17109
dvbohner723@yahoo.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Shawna Bostaph and I am a Personal Care Home Administrator and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist working in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

Cynthia Junkin, a music therapist, is on our team here at Shenango Presbyterian SeniorCare and provides exceptional programming to our residents. Shenango Presbyterian SeniorCare (SPSC) is a non-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community that is dedicated to providing living and healthcare services to enhance the quality of life of older adults in our community.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org<<http://www.musictherapy.org/>>).

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

**Shawna Bostaph, CTRS and Personal Care Home Administrator
Shenango Presbyterian Senior Care
724-946-3516
sbostaph@srcare.org**

From: Mark Bottos [<mailto:mark.bottos@smsmusic.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:16 PM
To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>
Subject: In Support of HB 1438

March 9, 2106

Dear Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Mark Bottos and I am the Director of the Creative Arts Therapy program at Settlement Music School in Philadelphia. While working Settlement Music School and Kardon Institute for Arts Therapy, I had the opportunity to hire and work alongside music therapists with board certification and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the clients we serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Provide information on how you have seen music therapy impact patient progress towards their treatment goals, quality of life, decrease pain, decrease anxiety, increase coping, etc.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Settlement Music School remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our clients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in any setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our clients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Mark Bottos, MCAT
Settlement Music School
3745 Clarendon Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19114
215-320-2625
Mark.bottos@smsmusic.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amanda Buie <abuie@yapinc.org>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 11:34 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Amanda Davis-Buie and I am a Mobile Therapist and Behavioral Specialist Consultant working at Youth Advocate Programs. While working at Youth Advocate Programs, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I have worked with several clients with various diagnoses, ranging from Autism to Oppositional Defiant Disorder, during the past eleven years that have benefited greatly from music therapy. Music stimulates the brain and assists with physical and emotional needs. I work with clients that struggle in many areas including poor verbal communication or are non-verbal, depression, below age- appropriate social skills, poor self-advocacy, poor motivation and low emotional functioning or awareness. Many of our clients need assistance to overcome crying episodes, withdrawal, and have poor problem solving abilities. I have witnessed my clients obtain many necessary skills from participating in Music Therapy; a few being - visual, auditory, and tactile experiences, physical involvement, psychological experience, increase on-task behavior, improved social skills, improved emotional functioning, eye-hand coordination, and life skills. Music therapy has helped my clients meet their behavioral goals as it has aided with coping skills and also decreased anxiety greatly. With the assistance of a music therapist as a part of the behavioral health team, our client's gain essential and vital skills to help lead them to a happy, productive and gratifying life.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Youth Advocate Programs remains unchanged. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Amanda Davis-Buie, MS, LBS
Mobile Therapist/ Behavioral Specialist Consultant
Youth Advocate Programs
1691 Grace Avenue, Lebanon PA, 17046
abuie@yapinc.org<<mailto:abuie@yapinc.org>>

My name is Carole Caples and I am contacting you in support of HB 1438. I have worked as a volunteer at Good Shepherd in Allentown, PA and have seen first hand the benefits that music therapy has with many of the residents at Raker Center. When I found out that the profession of music therapy is not licensed in Pennsylvania, I was a bit shocked. I know that many professions are licensed and we as consumers rely on our government to assure that those who are providing services to us are qualified to do so. State licensure of music therapists would protect the public by providing a layer of security that those who have the license are truly qualified to provide services as music therapists. I know that board certified music therapists must have training in anatomy and physiology and have seen music therapists work with those with severe contractures from injuries and cerebral palsy. I would not want to see anyone harmed by someone without that training (a musician or music educator or volunteer) as they could cause irreparable harm. Along with many volunteers and staff here at Good Shepherd, I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Good Shepherd remains the same. I am thankful that those here at Good Shepherd are informed about the qualifications for music therapists but am concerned that other individuals and facilities throughout the Commonwealth may have "music therapy programs or services" that are not, in fact, music therapy at all but a musician providing entertainment or a volunteer who plays music.

It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carole Caples
3214 South 5th Street
Whitehall, PA 18052

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Patricia Carey and I am a QIDP/Program Supervisor at Melmark. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

In my 5 years of working with people with intellectual disabilities, I have not had the opportunity to witness a music therapy session. The people with whom I've worked have been and are very motivated by music and can use this love of music to increase their quality of life, whether it's through specialized interactions with a therapist based on their emotional state or by learning how to increase their communication skills. I provided care for an individual with autism who was able to speak in sentences when motivated to do so. Usually, this person would point at the item or in the room where the item was located and relied on familiar staff members to understand what was desired. Listening to current music was so motivating for this person that they would ask for it and then request specific songs or music by certain artists. This could then lead to a short conversation or dancing and exercise. If this person had access to a qualified and licensed music therapist, their communication skills and quality of life can increase, as they will be able to effectively communicate their needs and increase their physical health and well-being. Without state licensure, this person won't have access to a qualified and trained therapist to grow those skills. They will continue to have access to music on the radio and staff members who try to increase their conversation skills. The conversations remain centered on very specific topics and do not allow for generalization of skills. The individual is still unable or unmotivated to communicate their needs, therefore risking harm to the person and preventing them from reaching their full potential as an American and a Pennsylvanian.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Patricia Carey
QIDP/Program Supervisor, Melmark
610-325-2983
PatriciaCarey@melmark.org

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Clarissa Coccia and I am an LPN working at Lutheran Senior Life, Passavant Community. While working at Passavant Community, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists Cindy Junkin and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Provide information on how you have seen music therapy impact patient progress towards their treatment goals, quality of life, decrease pain, decrease anxiety, increase coping, etc.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Passavant Community remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Clarissa Coccia, LPN

clarissa.coccia@lutheranseniorlife.org

104 Burgess Drive

Zelienople, PA 16063

doTERRA Wellness Advocate

(724)674-3828

clarissa.j.coccia@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Helen Cooney <hcooney1956@gmail.com>

Date: Mar 17, 2016 10:59 AM

Subject: In Support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, "akelly@pashousegop.com" <akelly@pashousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Helen Cooney and I have cerebral palsy. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

I have received music therapy services for 10 years and have seen first hand the impact it has on the residents of Inglis House. I have been volunteering at Inglis two days a week for the last 10 years and I believe music therapy is an important art that empowers others with disabilities. Music therapy bring joy and relaxation to people who suffer from MS, spinal cord injuries, CP and other disabilities. Music gives people a sense of belonging and inclusion. Having a licensed music therapist will ensure that the services being provided are of the highest.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Helen Cooney
33 W. Chester Pike
Apt. C5
Ridley Park, PA 19078
(610) 595-2294

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Lori Darnley and I am a SLP working at The Pathfinder School. While working at Pathfinder School, I have co-treated with an amazing board certified music therapist and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the students that I serve. I am writing in support of **HB 1438**, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I teamed up with Music Therapist, Linda Sanders, to co-treat students with special needs such as autism, multiple disabilities, and life skills support. Linda shared her vast knowledge on how to work with the students to bring music awareness through rhythm, movement, patterns, sounds and tunes that would touch the students and bring them increased attention and willingness to participate and become more calm. She had many diverse music therapy sessions at our school. We had sessions such as "Sing and Sign" to help the nonverbal students express themselves through song and music. We created a group called "Expressive Melody" to get the students that had limited verbalizations the opportunity to use music with lyrics to express themselves. She had a drum group that taught nonverbal students rhythm and patterning of sounds to follow directions and even perform in our school talent show. Linda was such a valuable part of our school environment and truly brought music to the lives of our students in a unique way that other music teachers have not at our school. She taught the students calming techniques and helped them gain confidence in wanting to get up and sing. She knew how to reach the students with special needs and made a difference in the lives of our children at our school. With Linda's guidance and knowledge in applying the concepts of music therapy, these children have increased their ability to calm themselves, and perform in front of others.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that no consumer harm occurs by individuals who claim to be music therapists and have no training or supervised clinical experience. Treatment by such individuals could be detrimental to a patient's progress and growth. It is vital that the healthcare consumers in Pennsylvania be assured a level of appropriate and consistent care with best practices by credentialed professionals. This can only be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Thank you,

Lori Darnley, MS, CCC-SLP
The Pathfinder School
50 Donati Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102
Ph: (412) 833-2777 ext. 2313
lori.darnley@aiu3.net

Lori Darnley, MS, CCC-SLP
The Pathfinder School
50 Donati Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102
Ph: (412) 833-2777 ext. 2313
lori.darnley@aiu3.net

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Liz Dean and I am a social worker at Heartland Hospice. While working at Heartland Hospice, I have had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed by the clinical impact that music therapy has had on the lives of the patients whom I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board. I have personally borne witness to the physical comfort, emotional calm, vitality, reflection and stimulation that music therapy can offer and provoke in hospice patients. I have seen non-verbal patients begin to sing. I have watched patients and families moved to tears.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Heartland Hospice remain the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis and make a difference in their lives. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" without the proper training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Dean, LSW
Heartland Hospice
460 Norristown Rd. Suite 101
Blue Bell, Pa 19422

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Paige Devlin and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I have just started to run my own business, Da Capo Music Therapy Services, out of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, serving two skilled nursing facilities, as well as one individual. I currently provide music therapy services to Saint Anne Home in Greensburg, PA and West Haven Manor in Apollo, PA. My individual client is an elementary school aged male, diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Taking these facilities and my current individual client into consideration, I serve about 75-100 clients in a typical year. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

As a music therapist in Pennsylvania, I have repeatedly come across problems that could be solved with a state licensure. Facilities are not educated about what a music therapist is or what a music therapist does and therefore claim to have a music therapy program, when in fact, they simply have someone providing recreational music. This poses a threat to residents, as those without the MT-BC credential are not trained to facilitate music therapy; could you imagine someone without prior training in physical therapy facilitating PT in a clinical setting? What about a speech therapist, a nurse, or a physician? A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Paige Joy Devlin, MT-BC
Da Capo Music Therapy Services
3976 Hazelwood Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146
(724) 766-9663
dacapomusictherapy@gmail.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Dr. Cheryl Dileo, and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. For the past 33 years I have been a music therapy professor at Temple University. Currently, I direct the PhD program in Music Therapy, the first and only full PhD program in music therapy in the country.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Although music can be beneficial to many, especially when delivered by a trained music therapist, music can also cause harm, for example, musicogenic epilepsy, unnecessary emotional catharsis, or re-traumatization of individuals who have experienced trauma. There are currently no laws that protect the services of music therapists, and unfortunately, harm is possible when music is provided by untrained persons.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

-

Cheryl Dileo, PhD, MT-BC

The Laura H. Carnell Professor of Music Therapy
Coordinator PhD Program in Music Therapy

www.temple.edu/musictherapy

Director: Arts and Quality of Life Research Center

www.temple.edu/boyer/researchcenter

012-00 Temple University

Philadelphia, PA 19122 USA

215-204-8542

Fax: 215-204-1982

cdileo@temple.edu

Re: Support for HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart; Members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee,

I serve as Chair of Music Education and Music Therapy at Duquesne University. My colleague, Dr. Elaine Abbott, is Director of our Music Therapy program. We concur about the need for—and importance of—a state licensure for Music Therapy professionals. I strongly encourage the passing of HB 1438. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Dr. Paul Doerksen

Paul F. Doerksen, Ph.D.
Chair of Music Education and Music Therapy
Mary Pappert School of Music
Duquesne University
Office (412) 396-1888

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Virginia Dougherty <james-virginia@comcast.net>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 8:11 PM

Subject: in support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>

Cc: PA State Task Force <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Subject line: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Virginia D. Dougherty, and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I have lived in the Pittsburgh area for more than 30 years having worked with veterans at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System for 30 years. I have had the privilege of working with veterans at the Highland Drive facility for mental health, the HJ Heinz Community Living Center and at the University Drive behavioral health inpatient units. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

In addition, I have received a masters degree in Occupational Therapy from Chatham University in 1998. I am licensed as an OT in PA (License No. OC006325L). Although I might have the capacity and the privilege to be employed as an occupational therapist, I have chosen to remain employed as a MT-BC; officially as a Creative Arts Therapist (Music) at the Federal VA facility in Pittsburgh. I have a unique understanding of both scopes of practice. I can see similarities in training rigors (including continuing education to maintain certification/registration), perceptive diagnostic understanding, ethical delivery of therapy, and the high standards of skill required to provide care and healing to the healthcare consumer. The differences lay in the conduits or modalities for treatment delivery. Both disciplines are on equal footing except that one is licensed in the state of Pennsylvania and one is not.

Just as one upholds the high integrity of OT (which strives to provide therapy for everyday activities of daily living, rehabilitation for the purpose of a meaningful life tasks), Music therapy, through all music modalities provide therapy of action, emotion, spirit and cohesion—which are vital, life giving qualifiers. If a para-professional music facilitator (not a music therapist) proclaims they are doing *Music Therapy* and yet may cause harm, it effects the integrity of the Board Certified Music Therapist. Case in point, an addictions music facilitator may play a pre-recorded music selection as it matches the preference of a cohort group in age and socio-economic status. However, they may not realize the music provided is actually a trigger for the addict to further seek the substance rather than seek sobriety. A Music Therapist, (MT-BC) will know what songs are appropriate for substance abuse therapy, which are not, and how to train the client to effectively work through music triggers to maintain sobriety. (Research has indicated that music can trigger a relapse).

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Best regards,

Virginia D. Dougherty, MT-BC, MOTR/L
462 Hulton Road
Verona, PA 15147
Phone: 412-798-9434
Cell: 412-607-8653
e-mail: james-virginia@comcast.net
VA PGH e-mail: virginia.dougherty@va.gov

Email to: Julie Harhart jharhart@pahousegop.com ; Angie Kelly akelly@pahousegop.com ;
Wayne Crawford wcrawfor@pahousegop.com ; c.c. PASTF pastate.task.force@gmail.com

Subject line: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

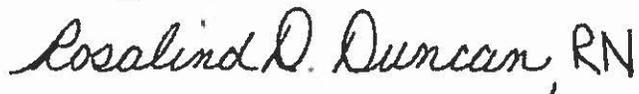
Hello. My name is Rosalind D. Duncan and I am a (physician, nurse, OT, PT, SLP, TR, etc.) working at (name of workplace). While working at (name of workplace), I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists (or co-treated with a board certified music therapist) and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Provide information on how you have seen music therapy impact patient progress towards their treatment goals, quality of life, decrease pain, decrease anxiety, increase coping, etc.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at (workplace) remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,



Rosalind D. Duncan, RN
Registered Nurse Case Manager
301 Meade Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15221-2131
duncanrd3@upmc.edu

From: Christina Carney <CCarney@easterseals-sepa.org>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 12:10 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello.

My name is Christina Durante and I am an occupational therapist working at Easter Seals of Southeastern PA. While working at Easter Seals, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Not only do the children I work with at Easter Seals love music therapy with "Mr. Dan", our current music therapist, they have also made progress with occupational therapy goals as a result of participating in music therapy. I work with children with cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, and rare genetic disorders. I love working with our music therapist to incorporate OT goals related to grasp, functional reach and range of motion, and sensory processing during music therapy. I have seen children who have refused to touch any other classroom tool or new texture actually hold and shake a musical instrument during music therapy. I have seen children who refuse to sit in a chair during classroom activities learn to sit, attend, and participate during music therapy. I have seen children make eye contact, clap their hands, stop crying, stop covering their ears, reach out and touch something, all during music therapy.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Easter Seals remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Christina Durante, MS OTR/L
Occupational Therapist
Easter Seals of SEPA
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpsville, PA 19443
CCarney@easterseals-sepa.org

Christina Durante, MS OTR/L
Occupational Therapist
Easter Seals of SEPA
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpsville, PA 19443
(215) 368-7000

Mon 3/14/2016 5:02 PM

Madam Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee

Hello, My name is Janet J Eisenbise, MS, and I am writing in support of HD 1438. A recently retired Licensed Professional Counselor, I have had an active psychotherapy practice for over 30 years. In that capacity I have had the occasion to work with board certified music therapists in several different settings.

I have been impressed by the positive effects displayed by clients that I worked with. For example in group program settings, they frequently were encouraged to work together, to listen to the therapist and to each other better. Many of them clearly had fun in these groups, and were stimulated to be more alert and show a higher degree of participation in other therapy groups.

On a more personal level, music therapy was a help in treating my mother as she was experiencing dementia. As you may know, dementia often results in increased isolation as the person declines in her ability to keep track of conversation and to understand it, and to speak. Music therapy was clearly stimulating to her and cheered her up. So much better that passively sitting and watching TV!

Certainly I am a fan of music therapy as a mode of treatment. And to ensure the highest quality of care, providing the structures and standards involved in licensure is important. At this time, as we become more aware of the importance in healthcare of taking care of and treating the whole person, body, mind and spirit, I ask that you take action to ensure the availability of high quality music therapy.

Thank you,

Janet J. Eisenbise, M.S.
Retired LPC
janeteisenbise@gmail.com

--

Janet Eisenbise, M.S.,LPC
Coaching for the Life of Your Dreams

March 20th 2016

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Dana Elmendorf and I am an art therapist and faculty member at Seton Hill University. During the course of my 30-year career I have had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists in a variety of agencies and have been consistently impressed with the clinical impact music therapy has made with the clients we have co-treated. My current teaching responsibilities allow me to also familiarize myself with the excellent evidence-base for music therapy interventions. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

There are numerous examples of the ways music therapy impacts patient progress and significant research to support its use to decrease both medical and psychological distress and increase coping. My favorite examples, however, are the ones I have seen firsthand with both clients and family members. Several of the positions I have held were in psychiatric inpatient facilities working with patients with complex psychiatric disorders. The progress towards identified treatment goals were often significant in the music therapy groups as patients were able to quickly establish a therapeutic alliance with the therapist and peers in the group, and through the interventions being provided, able to explore underlying issues impacting their ability to cope with their illness. Hard to reach individuals were observed to communicate more frequently and openly and to very quickly identify internal and external resources for coping. I also noticed that the positive effects of the group lasted far beyond the time of intervention and patients, when attending verbal therapy groups days later, would refer back to what they had gained in the music therapy group.

I have also seen firsthand the ways music therapy positively impacts quality of life. During the time my elderly mother was in an assisted living facility, I would, during my visits, watch from a distance while she participated in group with a board-certified music therapist. Knowing the emotional difficulties my mother faced at this time of loss and challenge, I was amazed by how engaged she appeared and how spontaneously she would interact with others and with the facilitator. What I was noticing was an effectively planned intervention aimed to counteract the feelings of isolation and helplessness often experienced by the elderly with dementia. The music therapist was able to bring my mother "out of her shell" and to reconnect with older memories, and a sense of remaining a viable person able to try new things. My mother would often speak of something "new" she tried in the music therapy group and the resulting pride and increased positive mood carried over throughout the day into fewer physical complaints.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at agencies across the state will remain the same. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of patients and clients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,



Dana Elmendorf, MA, ATR-BC, LPC
Assistant Professor, Art Therapy
Seton Hill University
One Seton Hill Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-830-1140
elmendorf@setonhill.edu

From: MAUREINA ELMY (<mailto:elmy3111@verizon.net>)

Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 9:35 PM

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>

Cc: Cheryl Mozdian <c_jackling@hotmail.com>

Subject: In Support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and Members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Maureina Elmy and I am the mother of a daughter who was born with Spina Bifida and many other disabilities. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

My daughter, Brittany, has received music therapy services for 2-1/2 years. Brittany has an innate ability to connect with songs that she hears on the radio or on television. There are many times she will begin "singing" (Brittany is non-verbal and only mouths words) a song that we never even knew she ever heard. The joy that music brings to Brittany is priceless. Brittany undergoes daily medical procedures that she has no control over and often this creates a feeling of sadness for her. Music allows her to make choices during her day and helps to alleviate that sadness. Her most favorite song is "The Star Spangled Banner." The animation on her face when that song is playing is a sight that needs to be seen by all. We were introduced to music therapy nearly 3 years ago while reading an article in our local newspaper. Once Brittany graduated from high school, my husband and I felt this would be an excellent way for Brittany spend some of her time each week since she loves music so much. She receives music therapy one day per week which we pay for out-of-pocket. You may be asking yourselves, if she loves music so much, why not just play the radio for her? Music therapy is so much more! Brittany's music therapist has taught her how to read notes, taught her how to play songs using the xylophone and has taught her about many different instruments including allowing her to have the experience of playing these instruments. Her music therapist has also incorporated exercise and range of motion of Brittany's upper extremities (something that is necessary to prevent contractures) into her music sessions. As I have mentioned before, the joy of music is priceless for Brittany, however, the out-of-pocket expense we have incurred for these services over the last few years has been challenging. This is a service which should be supported just like any other service should be supported for special needs individuals. As an occupational therapist, myself, I am well aware of the time, dedication, planning, and paperwork that Brittany's music therapist incurs to provide this invaluable service to not only my daughter, but to all of her clients.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Maureina Elmy
518 Thomas Drive
Dunmore, PA 18512
elmy3111@verizon.net

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Debrah Evans and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist (pending) working in Pennsylvania. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Debrah Evans
Music Therapy, pending MT-BC
Golden Hill Nursing and Rehab
New Castle PA 16101
Evansd221@GMAIL.COM

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Maria Hricko Fay and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I have been a music therapist in PA for over 20 years. Over that time I have worked in various settings. For 10 years I worked for Tri-County Human Services Center in Carbondale, PA providing music therapy in a mental health setting while doing private music therapy for individuals with developmental disabilities. For 11 years I worked at Marywood University in Scranton, PA coordinating and supervising the on-campus music therapy clinic. Currently I provide music therapy at Allied Services Center in Scranton, PA working with adults with developmental disabilities. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

As a Board Certified Music Therapist I have supervised music therapy pre-internship and internship students for 17 years, I have seen many instances for the potential for harm if these students were not being supervised. One example is a non-verbal client with severe developmental delays, Bi-Polar Disorder, and ADHD escalating in behavior, getting more agitated and the student not providing the appropriate music and behavioral support. The client acted out in the only way he knew how to communicate by pulling the students hair, scratching her, and causing self-injury. As the supervisor, I interceded and de-escalated the situation with the proper intervention. Another instance is with an adult with autism in a group setting. Again, the student was not realizing the amount of un-organized stimulation she was providing in the group, causing this client in particular to become agitated. She even gave the client a maraca to play which caused the client to become even more agitated because of its ambient and un-grounded sound. If this were to have continued, the client would have surely been a danger to the other group members and/or herself. There have been MANY instances that I have supervised over the years where if the student had not being supervised, it would have caused harm either to the client or the student. A state licensure in PA would provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Maria Hricko Fay, LSW, LCAT, MT-BC
291 Baylors Road
Nicholson, PA 18446
570-945-9758
maria.hricko.fay@gmail.com

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Maria Hricko Fay, LSW, LCAT, MT-BC
Fellow of the Association for Music and Imagery

Associate Director of Liturgical Music
Our Lady of the Snows Church/Church of St. Benedict

Government Relations Specialist
American Music Therapy Association

Board Certified Music Therapist
Allied Services

Date: March 16, 2016

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello! My name is Margy Fiscus and I am a Program Manager at Allied Health Services of Scranton Pa. 18508. I am also the recipient of the 2013 Regional Mid Atlantic Advocacy Award in Music therapy. While working at Allied Services, I had the opportunity to work with Board Certified Music Therapist and also was affiliated with the Marywood University intern program. Overall I have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I can't begin to say how much music therapy has enriched the lives of the individuals within our facility. The Vocational Service Division's day program which serves individuals with various levels of both intellectual and physical disabilities, have experienced growth in all aspects of their cognitive, emotional, physical and social development. We are excited to say that we have 15-20 individuals who are apart of Allied Services Bell choir, and at least 50 individuals who are part of the presentation of "One Special Night presented at Christmas by the Allied Services Day Program. I invite any of you, to visit our program, if you want to see a fantastic bell choir, individual solo performances, drum playing by the hearing impaired, individuals who once chose to isolate themselves from groups, now joining in group activity, overall pride, confidence and great self esteem built for those we service then you are seeing what music therapy has accomplished for us! How could you not be an advocate for music therapy!

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Allied Health Service remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality is assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Margy Fiscus, Program Manager
475 Morgan Highway
Vocational Day Program
Scranton Pa. 18508

Dear Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee,

My name is Margot Gatenby and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I currently serve two facilities in Pennsylvania: Variety Club Camp and Developmental Center as a private contractor in Worcester, PA and the continuing care retirement community, Waverly Heights LTD, as an employee in Gladwyne, PA. I serve roughly two-hundred consumers in a typical year in Pennsylvania, ranging from the elderly, some with dementia and memory impairment, to children, adolescents, and young adults with special needs associated with developmental delays, diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Downs Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and Intellectual Disability. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

It is important to recognize the potential harm that can ensue due to non-qualified musicians playing music in facilities, similar to those mentioned above, and/or dissimilar, but containing vulnerable consumers. Non-qualified musicians are not aware of mandated reporting protocols which can result in the consumer not receiving the help that they need. This can be seen in a situation where an individual may be suicidal and this lack of knowledge on the part of the non-qualified musician can result in endangering the consumer's life due to failure to report the suicidal ideation. Another example can be seen in consumers who require physical manipulation, such as those recovering from injury. In performing stretching, exercising, or dancing with these recovering individuals, the lack of knowledge and training in non-qualified musicians could result in physical injury to the recovering consumer. Lastly, music can evoke strong emotions, which the non-qualified musician is unskilled in addressing and handling. For example, a song about the beach or ocean causes a consumer to become tearful because they had a near drowning experience in the past, yet the non-qualified musician assumes the consumer's tears are tears of joy because they perceive the music as beautiful.

It is imperative for the psychological and physiological safety of consumers to avoid these potential harms by enabling licensure for board certified music therapists. The ability to speak does not allow an individual to practice speech therapy. Therefore, the ability to play a song (live or recorded) does not allow an individual to practice music therapy. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Margot Gatenby, MT-BC

Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator

Waverly Heights

1400 Waverly Road

Gladwyne, PA 19035-129

(610-645-8853)

margot.gatenby@waverlyheightsltd.org

Music Therapist

Music Therapy Associates, LLC

3437 MacArthur Road

Whitehall, PA 18052

*Mobile (732-850-5698)

margot.gatenby@aol.com

From: Julie Goldstein <jgoldstein@easterseals-sepa.org>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 12:04 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello.

My name is Julie Goldstein and I am a speech-language pathologist, clinical fellow working at Easter Seals of Southeastern PA. While working at Easter Seals, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I have seen a great impact of music therapy on the children's quality of life and progress towards goals. In music therapy, the children are more motivated and express themselves greatly. The repetitive nature and familiarity of the songs and the melodies allow the children to express themselves, whether it be through signs or words. The children always anticipate music time and become very enthusiastic and participate during the songs and activities.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Easter Seals remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Julie Goldstein,
Speech-Language Pathologist, Clinical Fellow
Easter Seals of SEPA
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpville, PA 19443
jgoldstein@easterseals-sepa.org

Julie Goldstein, M.A, CF-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
Easter Seals of Southeastern PA
Montgomery County Division
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpville, PA 19443
(215)-368-7000 x6273

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Lisa Gradziel and I am a PT working at The Center for Discovery. While working at The Center for Discovery, I have the opportunity to collaborate with board certified music therapists, including providing co-treatments and developing special projects. I have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I have presented regionally and nationally regarding the impact that my collaborations with board certified music therapists have on the lives of the patients that I serve. Most recently our collaborative focus has been on improved motivation for movement activities when PT is combined with music therapy. The music therapists I work with are professional, dedicated and focused on goals that improve the quality of life of our patients.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services remains the same at facilities in Pennsylvania that are similar to The Center for Discovery. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gradziel, PT, DPT, PCS, C/NDT
Physical Therapist
The Center for Discovery
PO Box 840, Harris, NY 12742
lisagpt12@gmail.com

From: Katie Griffiths [<mailto:Katie.Griffiths@inglis.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:24 AM

To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>

Subject: In support

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Katherine Griffiths and I am a CTRS, ATP working at Inglis House. While working at Inglis House. I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

This therapist works closely with clients with physical disabilities to engage them in creating music. This increases physical exercise, promotes quality of life, engages them socially, reduces anxiety and depression and provides access to adapted means of making music. The choir is a huge group that allows the residents to showcase their talents in 2 productions a year, with practice taking place once a week. They provide 1:1 room visits to residents on bed rest which engages the resident in activities and social exposure.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Inglis House remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Katherine Griffiths

ATP, CTRS

2600 Belmont Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19131

Katie.griffiths@inglis.org

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Gail Grossman and I am a voice teacher in Allentown, PA, who works in association with music therapists. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Gail Grossman
Voice teacher
3015 Diamond Avenue
Allentown, PA 18103
operaggg7@rcn.com

Angela Kelly

From: Denise Heberling <coplayhebs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 10:24 AM
To: Angela Kelly; Wayne Crawford; pastate.task.force@gmail.com; Julie Harhart; Boscola@pasenate.com
Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Denise Heberling and I am a Program Specialist at LifePath, Inc. While working at LifePath's Coplay House, I have the opportunity to observe music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the individuals I work with. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

The Coplay House is a Community Living Arrangement with 7 individuals ranging from age 20-43. They all have severe and profound intellectual and developmental disabilities. They do not speak, yet when there is music, they vocalize, smile, and demonstrate a definite awareness of the sound. They have extremely limited motor skills, but when the therapist sings and plays music, they may move their heads and some may move their arms. They are physically assisted with instruments so they can take an active role in the therapy.

Music therapy has been a beneficial monthly program at our residence. Family members are in awe of the responses they see from their children. The atmosphere of the home can be so upbeat that it leads to a good mood throughout the house.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at the Coplay House remains the same. The board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a monthly basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our residents. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Denise Heberling
Program Specialist
LifePath, Inc.
136 N. Front St.
Coplay, PA 18037
dheberling@lifepath.org

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Megan Herwig and I am a Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I work at Golden Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation in New Castle PA. I serve a minimum of 300 clients in a year. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

The harm I have seen is how people that are performers at my place of employment consider themselves therapists because “music is therapy.” When it came down to applying music in the most meaningful and therapeutic ways, they lacked the education so they were only performing while residents responded in common ways such as clapping and singing. While this is still engaging, music performance conducted by a non-music therapist is not considered music therapy. Residents have been left feeling vulnerable due to the power of music as evidenced by crying, moaning, etc. and the music performer can do nothing but comfort. This is a serious issue because it can lead to a deterioration of the brain or depression. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Megan Herwig
724-650-5606
mherwig@qualitylifeservices.com

Megan Herwig
Music Therapist
Golden Hill Nursing and Rehab
520 Friendship Street
New Castle, PA 16101

Check Out Our New Website!
www.QualityLifeServices.com

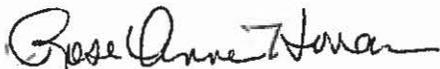
Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is RoseAnne Horan and I am the mother of a son with cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC national credential in Pennsylvania.

Jordan has received music therapy services for twelve years. I was looking for an outlet involving music and fun, while hopefully engaging Jordan enough to purposefully use his arms, legs, and vocal cords. Jordan uses a wheelchair and is nonverbal. This makes life more of a challenge for him. Jordan has benefitted from music therapy with Kristyn in many ways. Jordan's right arm and leg are extremely tight with significant contracture. Jordan's right hand is mostly closed tight in a fist. In music therapy he has achieved major progress in stretching his hand flat. He has been able to play the drums and touch piano/organ keys with a flat hand. Jordan is able to also freely move his legs and feet with bells attached to his ankles. He kicks because he loves to hear the bells. He eagerly participates in his music therapy sessions by singing along with songs, playing games and playing instruments. In many ways, music therapy mirrors physical therapy but adds more fun to it. Jordan's life should be joyful- not filled with endless hours of therapy which he dreads. Music therapy truly adds joy and fun to the work that needs to be done. I support music therapy wholeheartedly- so much that I pay for this therapy out of pocket just so Jordan can continue to receive it at school. It uses funds out of our already tight budget, but I would rather do without something than see Jordan miss out on the wonderful experience of music therapy with his therapist, Kristyn. Because Kristyn is a board-certified music therapist, I am confident in knowing she has had the necessary training in this specialized therapy. Her musical selections specifically target goals which we mutually agree upon. Because of Jordan's excessive salivation, sanitation of the instruments is of utmost importance. Kristyn ensures all her therapy instruments are well-sanitized both before and after each session. It would be a great relief if a state board of professional music therapy licensure was established.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,



RoseAnne Horan

946 N. Fairville Ave.

Harrisburg, PA 17112

717-469-7152

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Connie Huettner and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I work in Lancaster, PA in private practice and currently serve 45 clients in the group home setting as well as nursing home facilities throughout the year. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org). The validity of music therapy as a recognized profession is incredibly important to me. Having music therapy recognized stops others from providing unethical and non-professional services to clients in need. I have seen local individuals observe my work with clients and copy what I do with no schooling, training, planning, credentials or experience in the field and call it "Music Therapy." These sorts of actions from unqualified individuals critically harm the validity of our profession and I urge you with utmost sincerity and purpose to support HB 1438.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,
Connie Huettner MA, MT-BC
2442 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-471-5958
balanceandharmony@gmail.com

--

Connie Cheila Huettner, MA, MT-BC
Music Therapist
Zoetropolis, Co-owner
www.zoetropolis.com

From: Lynn Hurrell <lhurrell@easterseals-sepa.org>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 12:04 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, 'PASTF' <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello,

My name is Lyn Hurrell and I am a special education teacher, working at Easter Seals of Southeastern PA. While working at Easter Seals, I have the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and I am impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the students I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Easter Seals remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Lyn Hurrell
Special Education Teacher
Easter Seals of SEPA
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpville, PA 19443
lhurrell@easterseals-sepa.org

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Karen Jasko and I am a Music Therapist working at The Little Sisters of the Poor in Pittsburgh, PA. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board. I work with older adults and have witnessed first hand the difference Music Therapy can make in the lives of individuals and families. Music Therapy is one of the few modalities that can reach individuals with Alzheimer's and Dementia. I have seen residents who are confused and anxious demonstrate decreased anxiety, increased verbal and nonverbal communication with others in Music Therapy sessions while actively engaged in creating music. I have witnessed residents struggling with depression report an improved ability to cope and improvements in mood following music therapy sessions and interventions including songwriting and musical improvisation. I have been at the bedside of residents at the end of life who were experiencing significant pain who were able to find pain reduction through Music Therapy sessions using relaxation techniques combined with music and imagery. I have worked with residents who were unable to speak following a stroke whose first words came through singing during Music Therapy sessions. I have worked with individuals with Traumatic Brain Injuries who were able to relearn their names and the names of their children through specially composed songs written in Music Therapy sessions.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at the Little Sisters of the Poor remains the same. Our board certified music therapist treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MTBC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure. I have also witnessed several nursing homes in the Pittsburgh area hire musicians without any experience or training and say they are providing Music Therapy instead of hiring qualified Music Therapists. Music Therapists receive a significant amount of training and utilize evidence based clinical Music Therapy Interventions to make a difference in the lives older adults and other individuals with special needs.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Jasko, MTBC
Music Therapist Board
Certified
ksjasko@msn.com
Little Sisters of the Poor
1028 Benton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Email to: Julie Harhart jharhart@pahousegop.com; Angie Kelly akelly@pahousegop.com; Wayne Crawford wcrawfor@pahousegop.com; PASTF pastate.task.force@gmail.com

Subject line: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

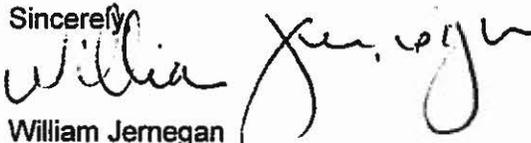
Hello. My name is William Jernegan and I am a (physician, nurse, OT, PT, SLP, TR, etc.) working at the Gresh Center for Easter Seals of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the Montgomery County Division. While working at the Gresh Center for Easter Seals of SEPA, I had the opportunity to supervise music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the children I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

The special needs children who attend our school participate twice weekly with the music therapist who provides very meaningful and enjoyable experiences stimulating sensory learning. The children, many of whom are very limited physically and cognitively, gain a great deal from their interaction with the music therapist enhancing their quality of life and providing an opportunity to engage in some enjoyment.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at the Gresh Center remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality is assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,



William Jernegan
Program Coordinator
Easter Seals of Southeastern Pennsylvania
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulsville, PA 19443
215-368-7000, ext. #6203
wjernegan@easterseals-sepa.org

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Holly Josephs and I am a Palliative Care Registered Nurse working at Community LIFE. I've worked in hospice, palliative care and with patients with chronic illnesses, and have had the opportunity to work alongside board certified music therapists and have been amazed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the quality of life for these individuals. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board. I have seen patients that were otherwise "stuck" around issues related to end of life (pain, spiritual suffering related to leaving their young children behind at end of life, depression, anxiety, difficulty coping), transcend their suffering, with the guidance and support of board certified music therapists.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in PA will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Community LIFE remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in PA that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Holly Josephs, RN, BSN
Palliative Care Nurse
Cell 412-330-0801
josephsha@upmc.edu



Website: www.commlife.org

From: Cynthia Junkin <cc.junkin@gmail.com>

Date: Mar 17, 2016 11:42 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, PA State Task Force <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Cynthia Junkin and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

I have served Lawrence County residents in long term skilled care, personal care, dementia care and independent living communities.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Carolyn Kauffman and I am a physician assistant, working at Debra T. Abell, MD & Associates in Wexford. During my career I've had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I've seen music therapy help improve the quality of life of my patients and positively impact progress toward their treatment goals.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services in Pennsylvania remains the same. Board certified music therapists treat and work with patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Carolyn R. Kauffman, MPAS, PA-C
11676 Perry Highway
Suite 2305
Wexford, PA 15090

Dear Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Daniel Kaye and I am the Director of Life Enrichment at Rydal Park, a continuing care retirement community in Rydal, PA. Happily, during my time at Rydal Park I have had the opportunity to work alongside music therapist and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

We see the amazing impacts of this work all the time. Music therapy calms anxiety, reduces stress, and allows residents to communicate better. It connects them with their families and allows them to cope with the challenges they face every day. More than anything, the serenity and tranquility they experience is so hopeful, and the fact that they can concentrate better on their important life skills makes all the difference.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at all of our area communities remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kaye
Director of Life Enrichment
Presby's Inspired Life - Rydal Park
(O)215-376-6265
Daniel.Kaye@presbysinspiredlife.org



www.presbysinspiredlife.org

Email to: Julie Harhart jharhart@pahousegop.com; Angie Kelly akelly@pahousegop.com;
Wayne Crawford wcrawfor@pahousegop.com; PASTF pastate.task.force@gmail.com

Subject line: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Candice Klein and I am a social worker working at Inglis House. While working at Inglis House I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists with a board certified music therapist and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board. I have some residents at Inglis House who are non-verbal and can't make their needs know and they have the music therapist come into their rooms and I see the huge smiles on their faces and the music enlightens them and makes there day.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Inglis House remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Candice Klein, MSW
Social Worker
Inglis House
2600 Belmont Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19131
Candice.klein@inglis.org

From: Danielle Knoblach <dknoblach@easterseals-sepa.org>
Date: Mar 18, 2016 11:51 AM
Subject: In support of HB 1438
To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>
Cc: Danielle Knoblach <dknoblach@easterseals-sepa.org>

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello,

My name is Danielle Knoblach and I am a physical therapist assistant working at Easter Seals of Southeastern PA. While working at Easter Seals, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

The benefits of treating patients during music therapy are diverse. Many of my patients have tight muscles and the music has a calming and/or distracting effect as I stretch them. Stretching tends to be uncomfortable and, at times, painful so the music is a welcome relief. Use of musical instruments can also provide an opportunity for a patient to work on tasks such as maintaining an open hand and grasping an object. This then carries over into other everyday tasks. For my patients who present with low arousal, upbeat music can increase their alertness and assist them in better participation for the tasks I am asking of them. For some, simply lifting their heads while sitting is a difficult task. An engaging music therapist gives my patients the motivation to sustain a lifted head.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Easter Seals remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Danielle Knoblach,
Physical Therapist Assistant
Therapy Administrative Assistant
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpsville, PA 19443
(215) 368-7000 x6251
dknoblach@easterseals-sepa.org

Email to: Julie Harhart jharhart@pahousegop.com; Angie Kelly akelly@pahousegop.com;
Wayne Crawford wcrawfor@pahousegop.com; PASTF pastate.task.force@gmail.com

Subject line: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Lori De Rea-Kolb, MA, MT-BC, CPRP and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I currently work full-time for COMHAR in a Long-Term Residential Facility for adults with pervasive mental illness in Northampton County, PA. I serve about 8 residents a year, however we do a great deal of community integration and outreach. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Throughout my 11+ years as a professional Music Therapist, I have witnessed firsthand the possible harm that has come from individuals misrepresenting themselves as providing services within the scope of Music Therapy. While at times well meaning, I have witnessed many incidents of individuals assuming a role best fit for a music therapist with their specific knowledge and expertise, and providing harm for clients. One specific example was an untrained staff initiating a music and meditation group for our residents who are actively psychotic. Not only is this contraindicated without the correct support and supervision, the residents were having negative effects due to having unrealistic expectations placed on them. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Lori L. De Rea-Kolb, MA, MT-BC, CPRP
Clinical Team Lead
COMHAR LTSR
900 Blue Mountain Dr.
Walnutport, PA 18088
T: 484-262-2460
F: 484-262-2476

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Mary Louise Kranick and I am a Certified Recreation Director working at Abington Manor. While working at Abington Manor, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Our residents respond well to our music therapist- those who rarely respond- tap their feet, move their finger or hand to the music- and may remain awake for the entire program. Some residents who rarely speak, may begin to sing words of familiar songs.- The music therapy is truly a blessing.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Abington Manor remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a bi-weekly basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a “music therapist” who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Mary Louise Kranick, ADC
Director of Recreation
Abington Manor
100 Edella Rd.
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

My son Collin was diagnosed with a stage 4 medulloblastoma brain tumor at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital in 2010 when he was 16 months old. The day after the tumor was found on an MRI, he had brain surgery to remove it. Most of the seven months following his diagnosis were spent inpatient, during which he had several rounds of high dose chemo, and an autologous stem cell rescue.

Over the days and weeks following the brain surgery, Collin was not the same child he'd been before the surgery. The surgery left him extremely weak on his right side from his face all the way to his foot; the first goal his physical therapist had was for him just to be able to turn his head to the right while he was laying in bed. At first it seemed like he was looking through us, not at us. He didn't really interact with us, or try to talk. Any efforts to comfort him only seemed to upset him more. He required intense multidisciplinary therapies throughout the entire time he was receiving chemo to help him recover from surgery. These included speech, occupational, physical, and music therapy.

Music therapy played a big part in Collin's recovery from brain surgery. The music therapist understood how brain surgery can affect a person, and she could tailor her therapy specifically to Collin's situation. After the surgery, Collin barely engaged or interacted with us. At first, music seemed to be one of the few things that reached him, but it had to be very soft, or he became agitated. She would quietly play the guitar or sing to him, and she brought us cds of soft music that we could play for him. Not only did this music help calm Collin, it helped calm me as I went through one of the most terrifying experiences a parent can go through.

The music therapist came to see Collin almost every day. Even if he wasn't able to interact with her, she still talked to Collin and played music for him or sang to him. Then one day, Collin reached for an instrument, and that was the day I knew his personality was still intact, even if he couldn't express himself yet. The music therapist would come play during physical therapy sessions, certain procedures, etc. to keep him involved and/or calm. Music therapy became one of the things Collin enjoyed most in the hospital, and he continues to love music now.

When patients are undergoing chemotherapy, their immune systems become compromised. Any little germ can cause serious and life threatening illness. Collin had also tested positive for MRSA, a highly contagious bacteria that can spread easily. Therefore, there were many precautions the doctors, nurses, and therapists had to take for Collin's safety, as well as the safety of the other patients in the oncology wing. All staff members had to wear special gowns and gloves any time they entered Collin's room, and as they left Collin's room, these gowns and gloves were put in a laundry bag or thrown away to prevent the spread of bacteria from one patient to another. It was also crucial for the music therapist to clean every instrument brought into Collin's room, before and after he touched them.

Music therapists need to know more than just music; they should have a general understanding of psychology, biology, and medical conditions as well. Requiring music therapists to hold a board certification and a license to work in healthcare would help ensure that the therapy they provide is as safe and effective as possible.

-Jennifer Kratzer
<http://bit.ly/CollinKBlog>
<http://bit.ly/CollinKFacebook>



From: Adrienne Krysiuk <AKrysiuk@easterseals-sepa.org>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 2:55 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, PASTF <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello.

My name is Adrienne Krysiuk and I am an occupational therapist working at Easter Seals of Southeastern PA. While working at Easter Seals, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Easter Seals remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Adrienne L Krysiuk, MS OTR/L
Occupational Therapist
Senior Clinician
Easter Seals of SEPA
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpsville, PA 19443
akrysiuk@easterseals-sepa.org

Email to: Julie Harhart jharhart@pahousegop.com; Angie Kelly akelly@pahousegop.com;
Wayne Crawford wcrawfor@pahousegop.com; PASTF pastate.task.force@gmail.com

Subject line: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Marie Kurtz and I am a (physician, nurse, OT, PT, SLP, TR, etc.) working at Penn State Hershey Medical Center . While working at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists as well as co-treat with board certified music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Music therapists have the ability to address the language and speech needs of our patients through repetition, rhythm and song. This allows improved motivation, improved voice onset and more rapid increase in language development. Music therapy and speech therapy work hand in hand to improve the lives of our patients. In addition I have seen first-hand the benefits of music therapy on tone, pain, and stress in the pediatric hospital patient. The benefit of this professional therapy program is immense from a quality of life standpoint!

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Penn State Hershey Medical Center remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a “music therapist” who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,
Marie C Kurtz, MSCCC-SLP
Supervisor of Speech Language Pathology
Penn State Hershey Medical Center
Mkurtz2@hmc.psu.edu

Date: March 16, 2016

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello! My name is Debbie Lambert and I am a QIDP/Program Specialist at Allied Health Services of Scranton Pa. 18508. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board. I would tell you that I have had the opportunity to observe a Board Certified Music Therapist at our Vocational Adult Training Facility Day Program at Allied Services interact successfully with our program. Overall I have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve.

I can't begin to say how much music therapy has enriched the lives of the individuals within our facility. The Vocational Services Division's Day Program which serves individuals with various levels of both intellectual and physical disabilities, have experienced growth in all aspects of their cognitive, emotional, physical and social development. We, here at Allied Services Day Program, are excited to say that we have 15-20 individuals who are a part of Allied Services Bell choir, and at least 50 individuals who enthusiastically participate in the presentation of our own annual Christmas program, entitled "One Special Night". This is solely presented by our Day Program. I whole heartily invite you to visit our program where you will see a fantastic bell choir, individual solo performances, drum playing by the hearing impaired, individuals who once chose to isolate themselves from groups now joining in group activity, overall pride, confidence and great self esteem built for those we service! Then you will surely see what music therapy has accomplished for us! How could you not be an advocate for music therapy!

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Allied Health Services remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality is assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "Yes" on House Bill 1438.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Debbie Lambert, QIDP/Program Specialist
475 Morgan Highway
Vocational Day Program
Scranton Pa. 18508

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Erica Lancellotti <barcandynyc@icloud.com>

Date: Mar 17, 2016 11:43 PM

Subject: Support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>, "akelly@pashousegop.com" <akelly@pashousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Subject line: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Erica Lancellotti and I am an entrepreneur who owns companies BarCandy and Dirty Little Line (kids apparel line). I have had the opportunity to watch my sister, Alexis Ramagnano, who is a music therapist and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of her patients. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Over the last few years, I have watched my younger sister, in Pennsylvania, thoroughly better people's lives by reducing anxiety, recreating memories once forgotten through music and just overall joy and want to live again through music therapy. She spent years studying this therapy in college so that she could better people's lives with an alternative to traditional medicine that has been proven effective.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at (workplace) remains the same. Board certified music therapists treat and work with patients on a daily basis and definitely should have degrees to back them to treat patients so that it is effective treatment. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Erica Lancellotti

2077 Center Avenue

16k

Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Erica@barcandynyc.com

BarCandy Company CEO

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is LuAnn Liberatori and I am the patient/client with **bilateral congenital deafness and having been implanted with cochlear ear implants late in life**. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

I have just started music therapy services. I am currently in a Yoga Teacher Training Program and my goal is to teach yoga to both the hearing and deaf population with physical and mental limitations and for physical and mental health benefits. Growing up deaf in a hearing world was a challenge for both me and for my parents who wanted me to mainstream in the society. They paid for private speech therapy for me up till I was 18 years old. My dad came from the mines and was a factory worker all of his life. My mom worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for years to help pay for my lessons. It was a financial hardship for them to keep me home and mainstreamed with the hearing society. My parents were musicians and music was their therapy. My dad developed kidney cancer with metastasis to the lungs and was told that his time was up within 6 months. My dad lived 5 years with this cancer and kept on playing the clarinet and saxophone at a Community band up till his death. My children are natural musicians and my daughter at 12 years old sang a solo at the Kimmel Center for the diocese of Philadelphia 200 hundred year celebration. Coming from a family of musicians, I feel that music therapy would help me teach yoga. I witnessed the proof of what music has done for my family who are not deaf. I had speech therapy for years and I know how to talk, but I feel that my voice is an instrument that needs to be fine tuned. I would like to train my voice to have a soothing and therapeutic presence or sound. Being deaf does not always mean we can't speak or our voices are "gone". My vocal cords and part of my brain that speaks have not been affected by my deafness. It was determined that I was part of the "rubella epidemic" of the sixties and the rubella "babies" are able to speak. I am self conscious about my voice and how it may sound to the hearing population, therefore I hold my voice back. I am very nervous to speak out and it prevents me from flourishing and be able to reach my goals of being the "bridge" between the deaf and hearing world in a therapeutic setting. I feel that music therapy will open the doors for me to let go of my fear of public speaking and help my voice to regulate itself without hurting my vocal cords or the audience ears. I do not want to be limited because of my deafness and this is the reason why I chose music therapy over speech therapy. Having started music therapy, it brought back memories of my speech therapy days. The only difference with music therapy is the therapist is allowing me to "let go" of the mechanics of how to speak. We practice both with and without my cochlear ear implants on and I am totally deaf. I am amazed that I am starting to attain the same pitch as my music therapist without my CI turned on. She tells me to come from the heart and I put my hand on both myself and my therapist and follow her pitch with her being the "conductor". *I just started the program and already some of my hearing yoga teacher training classmates and teachers have noticed the difference in my voice. They tell me that I am speaking clearer and my tone has a good inflection. This is a financial hardship for me to continue with this therapy just like speech therapy was for my parents when I was growing up. I feel that if I want to be a "bridge" between the deaf and hearing society; I need to have music therapy to help me to be that "bridge".*

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

LuAnn Liberatori
695 Dori Lane
Stowe, PA 19464
luannliberatori@aol.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Kim Lyday and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I work at Inglis House, which is a long-term care facility for adults who are wheelchair-bound as a result of various conditions (such as Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, etc). There are approximately 20 individuals in our facility receiving music therapy services in both group and individual treatment settings. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

While Inglis House is a unique facility being specialized in providing care and rehabilitative services to individuals who are wheelchair-bound, it is classified as a nursing home facility. In the state of Pennsylvania, music therapy is not recognized as a profession in nursing homes. Residents, staff, and family members are often confused about what music therapy can provide, and the majority of the time music therapists are confused with music volunteers. While volunteers bring the joy of music to many individuals, they lack the training of a board certified music therapist, who has been trained to help clients process intense emotions that come up during songs. Knowing what songs to play at what time is an important part of the therapeutic process. Music volunteers, or non-credentialed individuals who use music with clients, can unintentionally cause harm when working with clients. There have been instances when well-meaning music volunteers have played songs for residents that brought up strong emotions, bringing them to tears, and the volunteer had no idea how to work with that resident. Board certified music therapists have an understanding of anatomy and physiology, cognitive functions, and how music is processed in the brain as well as how it affects the physical body. This training allows the therapist to use music intentionally and purposefully to improve and/or maintain various levels of functioning in clients. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lyday, MA, MT-BC
2 North Neighborhood Life Leader/Music Therapist

Inglis House
2600 Belmont Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19131
215-878-5600
Ext. #432
Direct Cell: 215-301-4088
Kim.Lyday@inglis.org

From: Katie Lyons <rudykt927@gmail.com>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 6:19 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Kathleen Lyons and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I work for Counseling and Rehabilitation, Inc. and have been providing music therapy services to clients in Lancaster and York Counties. My clients are brain injury survivors who benefit from the cognitive retraining interventions in which I engage them to address executive functions like memory and concentration. I have also used music therapy interventions to assist these clients in redeveloping fine motor and gross motor movements impaired by their injuries. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

When I started with this company four years ago, I was the first music therapist on staff, so we are currently working on building the program and educating the public about the benefits of music therapy. Prior to this position, I was the music therapist for a nursing home. In that environment it was especially confusing to staff and residents who did not know the difference between board certified music therapists, entertainers, and music volunteers. The training we receive as music therapists is critical to our ability to treat clients rather than just entertain them. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Lyons, M.S., MT-BC, CBIS

381 Frogtown Road, Pequea, PA 17565

717-330-2372

klyonscsp@gmail.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Amy Manuel and I am a PTA working at Inglis House. While working at Inglis House, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I have seen many of the residents that live at Inglis House make excellent gains with the help of their music therapist. Some are significantly calmed down when agitated or up, some are aroused and open their eyes when they are in an almost vegetative state, and many are just happier and enjoy all the benefits that music therapy can bring to their lives. I have also work with children who are autistic. I have been amazed at the impact music therapy has on their behaviors and ability to engage in their educational setting.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Inglis House remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,
Amy Manuel
Physical Therapist Assistant
2600 Belmont Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19131
Amy.Manuel@Inglis.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Matthewson, Susan" <smatthewson@tnonline.com>

Date: Mar 17, 2016 5:06 PM

Subject: House Bill 1438

To: "'Boscola@pasenate.com'" <Boscola@pasenate.com>, Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "'pastate.task.force@gmail.com'" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Email to: Boscola@pasenate.com; jharhart@pahousegop.com; akelly@pahousegop.com; wcrawfor@pahousegop.com; pastate.task.force@gmail.com

Subject line: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Susan, I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Susan Matthewson
100 N Broad St., Apt 101
Nazareth, PA 18064

Best Regards,
Susan Matthewson
Marketing Sales Executive
smatthewson@tnonline.com
Office: 610-740-0944, press 1, Ext 3714

From: Chuck McCaskey <esmccaskey@hotmail.com>
Date: Mar 18, 2016 10:40 AM
Subject:
To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>
Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Sharyn McCaskey and I am the Activity Director and COTA/L at Shenango Presbyterian SeniorCare, a CCAC retirement community in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

I have been Cindy Junkin's supervisor since December 2014. We are privileged to offer music therapy to our residents and support state licensure.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org<<http://www.musictherapy.org>>).

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Sharyn McCaskey, COTA/L, Director of Community Living
Shenango Presbyterian SeniorCare
238 South Markey Street
New Wilmington, PA 16142
724.946.3408

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Katie Merk and I am a OTR/L working at Broomall Rehab and Nursing Center. While working at Broomall Rehab and Nursing Center I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I love seeing a residents face light up during a music therapy session. Residents with dementia can be very difficult to connect with but with music therapy I see a different side of them. They are able to participate in the music and it makes them happy.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Broomall Rehab and Nursing Center remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Catherine (Katie) Merk, OTR/L

Broomall Rehab and Nursing Center

merk816@gmail.com

From: Jodie Miller <jodiemill@gmail.com>
Date: Mar 18, 2016 1:22 PM
Subject: In support of HB 1438
To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly
<akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>,
"pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>
Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello.

My name is Jodie Miller and I am an autistic support teacher assistant working at Easter Seals of Southeastern PA. While working at Easter Seals, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Many of the children in autistic support don't like sitting and participating in group activities but I have seen firsthand how our music therapists bring out speech and group participation for our children.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Easter Seals remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Jodie Miller
Autistic Support Teacher Assistant
Easter Seals of SEPA
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpsville, PA 19443
jodiemill@gmail.com

--

~ Live Well *~* Laugh Often *~* Love Much *~*

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Robert Miller and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I am part of a creative and expressive arts therapist team in the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, serving at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, a large stand-alone acute psychiatric facility. I also am the co-owner of Music for Life of Pittsburgh, LLC, where I serve some private clients and contract with independent facilities. Each year, between my job with UPMC and my private practice, I serve over 1,500 PA residents. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Music therapy has been receiving lots of publicity in recent years, from books and movies to the recovery process of former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. As a result, the term "music therapy" has been popping up even more, from those who are trained and legitimately using music therapy to those who are attaching it as a buzzword to their offered services that are not music therapy. These services, which range from listening to recorded music to prescribed music to directly treat an ailment, are confusing and misleading to the public and to facilities who are looking to offer music therapy as part of their treatment model.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Robert G.H. Miller, MS, MT-BC
Music for Life of Pittsburgh, LLC
208 Rebecca Sq
Pittsburgh, PA 15209
bob@musicforlifepgh.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Cheryl Mozdian and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I provide contracted music therapy services to 8 long term care facilities, 1 hospice, and several private clients. In a typical year I provide services to approximately 300 people in North Eastern PA (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming, and Susquehanna Counties). The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

There is a misunderstanding and lack of education in my area of the difference between a Board Certified Music Therapist and a music volunteer or employee that plays guitar. I have seen well intentioned activity aids startle a resident with dementia and increase their anxiety with loud, overstimulating music. Other employees insist on having recorded music played continuously all day and state that it is relaxing. In observing the residents, I see that continuous generic recorded music either overstimulates them or gets ignored by the resident. These negative examples can be shaped into more meaningful experiences by someone who understands how to prescribe music to benefit each individual. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Mozdian, MM, MT-BC
516 Layton Rd, South Abington Township, PA 18411
570-862-2495
c_jackling@hotmail.com

From: Debra Mull <debra.mull@gmail.com>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 10:16 AM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: "Boscola@pasenate.com" <Boscola@pasenate.com>, Julie Harhart <lharhart@pahousegop.com>, "akelly@pashousegop.com" <akelly@pashousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Debra Mull and I am the friend of a parent with a son with autism. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Debra Mull
416 Morton Court Apt 102
Northampton, PA 18067
570-452-6021
debra.mull@gmail.com



184 Richard Drive
Center Twp, PA 15001

724-624-9009
michelle@m3musictherapy.com
www.m3musictherapy.com
www.facebook.com/M3MusicTherapy

March 20, 2016

Rep. Julie Harhart
313 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202183
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2183

Dear Madame Chair and members the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Michelle Muth and I am a board-certified Music Therapist (MT-BC) from Beaver County Pennsylvania. Also, I am a certified music educator and the founder of M3 Music Therapy a female-owned small business in Beaver county. The clients served by M3 Music Therapy live in both Beaver and Allegheny counties and consist of individuals, groups and families from 6 months to 92 years of age. Music therapy is versatile and truly serves across the lifespan.

You have received numerous letters about the impact music therapy has made in clients' lives, how it is supported in other health professions and the impact on Pennsylvania with the nearly 10 colleges and universities that provide music therapy programs.

I am writing to you to help you and the committee understand the difference between a music therapist and other music professionals, in particular music educators. With HB 1438 we are requesting music therapy licensure related to the scope of practice laid out by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) and the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA).

The clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program. (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

We are NOT claiming ownership of music as we recognize there are many situations in which music is used in physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy as well as by other individuals who provide music as a service for entertainment or education purposes. We acknowledge that there is a whole spectrum of music experiences that can provide benefit. Moving through the spectrum you start with entertainers, music volunteers continue to music educators and end with music therapists. Each with their own unique strengths but with radically different approaches and purposes. The music therapist is the only one that does an assessment process, creates a treatment plan with goals and objectives, with music as the cornerstone of the process. We create a therapeutic relationship with our clients through the use of music.

To visualize the difference between an entertainer/music volunteer and music therapist imagine entering a skilled-nursing facility and seeing an individual singing or, perhaps, playing an accordion

or other instrument, in front of a group of residents. These individuals most often have with them a set list of songs and provide a leisure/entertainment experience for the residents often helping the residents to feel "better" afterwards. This would be entertainment and often provided by skilled musicians or volunteers. This is not music therapy but entertainment.

However, you might see a music therapist doing something that looks quite similar, singing and/or playing instruments with a group. What you may not see is that each music therapy experience is done with intention. Treatment goals and objectives have already been determined after an assessment process. Perhaps it is a group of participants in which their primary diagnosis is stroke and they are working on recovery. Goals might be to strengthen the arm of the affected side of the body OR re-establish language ability. So, what you see is a music therapist holding a drum in front of an individual with a mallet gently strapped to their wrist so that they can play the drum. You might also see the music therapist provide support to that weakened arm so that it is not injured. The large movement they use to hit the drum is meeting the goal of "strengthen the arm of the affected side of the body." While at the same time, everyone is singing *Oh What a Beautiful Morning*. Participants may not sing every word but the music therapist provides strategic pauses in the music to prompt the next word, thus working on the goal of re-establishing or improving language ability. In this situation, the music therapist is very aware of their client(s) needs and responses to the music. If an entertainer or music volunteer were to do the same with the drum activity - they could cause injury to the client by not supporting the weakened arm.

What is the difference between a music educator and music therapist?

As a trained, Pennsylvania certified music educator myself, I can speak directly to the difference. Music educators are tasked with teaching a skill (how to play an instrument or sing) and creating enrichment experiences with music (helping students develop a life-long appreciation of music). Music therapists use music intentionally to help our client(s) achieve a non-musical goal e.g. helping a child with autism, who hasn't spoken, to sing their first words OR stabilize the gait of someone with Parkinson's. I like to say that music educators are state certified for grades K-12. Music Therapists are nationally board-certified for working with clients from cradle to grave.

Training (Music Educators & Music Therapists):

The most basic education to become a state certified music educator or nationally board-certified music therapist consists of a 4-year undergraduate degree. Both majors take the same base foundation of music courses. We are all trained, first and foremost, to be the best musicians that we can be with the following:

- Primary and secondary instruments (e.g. major in piano, minor in trumpet) (all 4 years)
- Music history and music theory (over multiple semesters/years)
- Sight singing (given an unfamiliar piece of music to sing on the spot) (all 4 years)
- Dictation (hearing a melody and writing it down) (all 4 years)
- Participate in numerous ensembles (all 4 years)
- Perform in numerous joint recitals and a solo recital

Then we diverge.

Music Education majors

- Focus on pedagogy classes - how to teach all the instruments
- Educational psychology
- Introduction to Special Education
- Observe classrooms
- 3 month student teaching in a k-12 setting
- Sit for the state Praxis test
- 180 hours of continuing education every 5 years

Music Therapy majors

- Classes on how to use instruments therapeutically
- Therapeutic strategies and techniques for working with different age groups and populations e.g. geriatric, developmental disabilities, addiction recovery, medical conditions
- Anatomy and Physiology; Biology; Science of acoustics;
- Psychology; Abnormal psychology; Psychology of Music
- Clinical observation and participation throughout the 4-year degree
- 6 month full-time internship (1040 hour)
- Sit for the national certification exam
- 100 hours of continuing education every 5 years to maintain MT-BC (music therapist board-certified) status

Both music therapists and music educators can go on for a masters or Ph.D or other advanced certifications in different areas, but the above outlines the bare minimum to become a state certified music educator and nationally board-certified music therapist.

I have spoken with many educators that are being called upon to provide "music therapy" in life skills classes. These individuals are very uncomfortable with this request and admit to not being equipped to do this, but are not given a choice. Although music educators do take an introduction to Special Education class, this is a general class and not specific to the music classroom. Whether general music or a performing ensemble, the music classroom is, by its very nature, inclusive. However, music educators are not taught how to make accommodations for special needs students. How do they cope with the student with major sensory issues who wants to play in the school band; the student in a wheel-chair that can only move their head; how to modify instruments to meet different physical challenges? Music educators' classrooms are often the largest class size in the school with the ensembles - sometimes as many as 100 students! A music therapist can support a music educator with our understanding of how to make modifications in the music classroom. We can provide music therapy to the life skills class. However, without licensure, we cannot work in the public schools without dual certification OR without a state certified teacher present. With licensure, we are on equal footing with the teachers, meeting state requirements for licensed professionals in the schools and can provide needed music therapy services and consult/support with music educators. More importantly, state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

In closing, I urge you to support HB 1438 to create a music therapy license and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Michelle Montgomery Muth, MT-BC
Founder, M3 Music Therapy, LLC
Home Phone: 724-203-0521

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is David Murdocca and I am the father of a son with High Functioning Autism - Aspergers. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

My child, Ian Murdocca, has received music therapy services for less than a year, and we already see significant behavioral progress. Ian, at age 5, had several tantrums weekly at home and at school, that lasted 20 – 30 minutes, and he required assistance in calming himself. We brought him to music therapy at the advice of his behavioral support team, and in several months his tantrums have reduced significantly in frequency, and more importantly, he has become much more equipped to self-soothe. As it turns out, he additionally has an aptitude for music, can play parts of songs by ear, and found an outlet in which he has become engaged like no previous activities. Home life has much improved not only for Ian, but also for his younger sibling and admittedly, also Barbra and I, his parents, as Ian applies what he learns in therapy to remain a much more calm, less aggressive child. Fortunately we so far have had his therapy fees covered by insurance, as we would be unable to fund regular therapy without this assistance.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

David Murdocca
115 Rentzel Drive
Manchester, PA 17345
443-473-7696
David.Murdocca@gmail.com

From: Willie Nelson <crillswilson@gmail.com>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 5:25 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is William Nelson and I am a student preparing to become a Board Certified Music Therapist in Pennsylvania. I am a junior at Immaculata University. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

I am in clinical training, wherein I work with a few dozen children with autism spectrum disorder. In my work I use specific strategies that required years of training to develop. I am concerned that, currently, any person can play music with similar children and claim that they are performing music therapy. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

William C. Nelson
312 Greenwich Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
610-247-0243
Crillswilson@gmail.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Bethany and I am a dance/movement therapist working at Dominion Hospital. While working at Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Greenspring Village, and Dominion Hospital, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Dominion Hospital remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a “music therapist” who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Bethany Niciu, MA, R-DMT

Bethany.Niciu@gmail.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Ben Nicholson and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I work in inpatient psychiatry at Einstein Medical Center, Brooke Glen Behavioral Hospital, and at an outpatient adult psychiatric program with Warren E. Smith Health System, serving hundreds of clients a year. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

I am concerned about potential harm that can result as a consequence of consumer and facility confusion due to a lack of licensure in Pennsylvania. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Franklin Nicholson, III, MM, MMT, MT-BC
2117 S 15th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19145
(215) 551-1121
ben_bfn@yahoo.com

Dear Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House
Licensure Committee:

My name is Christina O'Brien, M.A., MT-BC, and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I work for Willow Tree Hospice in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. I serve approximately 50-60 patients in the local community through the end-of-life process, active dying process, and bereavement process for families of their lost loved ones.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program," (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Due to the lack of licensure in Pennsylvania, current board-certified music therapists are not protected by the state for the integrity of their clinical work, therapeutic process, or music interventions used within their populations served. Personally, I am having a clinical issue with a volunteer for our hospice facility who is calling herself a "music therapist," but has no clinical training or degree from a credentialed university for such title. Unfortunately due to the lack of licensure, it is legal in Pennsylvania for her to call herself a "music therapist," only by knowledge of the use of music therapeutically in her own personal life. We as board-certified music therapists provide our service to achieve our clients' highest potential of their goals and objectives, not out of the intention of our own musical benefit or therapy. This is what provides our clientele a positive experience and enhance quality of life. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Christina O'Brien, M.A., MT-BC

Board Certified Music Therapist

2214 Smithbridge Dr.
Coatesville, PA 19320
(610) 701-1107

cobnotes@gmail.com

From: jay oneill [<mailto:walers045@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 10:00 PM
To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>
Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:
My name is Jenna O'Neill and I am a certified clinical hemodialysis technician in Southern Chester County. I have personally witnessed and experienced the power and benefit of music therapy when my grandmother received hospice services before her death in 2014. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Due to lack of licensure in Pennsylvania current board certified music therapists are not protected. Those who benefit in music therapy require an educated and clinically trained professional to give them a higher quality of life. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Jenna Robin O'Neill, CCHT
2214 Smithbridge dr
Coatesville, Pa 19320
(610) 291-3662
Walers045@gmail.com

From: Kristin Paluszka [<mailto:KPaluszka@bucksiu.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:03 PM
To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>; Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>; Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>; pastate.task.force@gmail.com
Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Kristin Paluszka and I am an occupational therapist working in the school-based setting with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 (BCIU). While working for the BCIU, I had the opportunity to work alongside a music therapist and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the students I serve. I am writing in support of HB1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

My most direct experience seeing the benefits of music therapy has occurred while working with my older students (aged 14-21), who have Autism. This particular group of students possessed quite a range of abilities. Some were verbal, some non-verbal (although many could make vocalizations), some were able to follow verbal directions, some required physical prompting to understand what they needed to do to complete a task. I happen to be in the classroom the same day as the Music Therapist. This group of students would sit together and they would sing, play instruments, and follow rhythms and patterns/sequences. It was amazing to watch. My students who often required physical prompting to participate in most activities would participate in the music activities once handed an instrument. The student who avoided eye contact the most would look right at the music therapist while she was singing to him. With a group who struggles with sequencing, motor planning, and sometimes gross motor movement in general, she was able to get them all moving together, doing the same hand motions, with less support than typically needed. She knew how to elicit those sequences and movements and reactions, and when to stop. It was my favorite part of the week.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our students and this is invaluable. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our students. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Kristin Paluszka, OTR/L
Occupational Therapist
Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
705 N. Shady Retreat Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
kpaluszka@bucksiu.org
Our Children... Their Future... Bucks County IU

Madame Chair Harthart and members of the PA House Licensure Committee:

My name is Sister Mariam Pfeifer, IHM, a Board Certified – Music Therapist for over 35 years in PA. In 1977, I founded the Music Therapy Department at St. Joseph's Center, (ICF/MR),

Scranton, PA, with 83 residence of S/P disabled clients (1977- 1982); and one day a week at the Human Service Center, Carbondale, PA, (29 clients Partial Program); and an Adjunct faculty at Marywood University. Established and directed an approved 6 month NAMT required Internship at St. Joseph's (trained 3 Interns). Designed the Music Therapy Program for Marywood University, begun in 1979 and continued as part-time Adjunct and Clinical supervisor and full-time Director of Music Therapy in 1982-2012. I've served in many roles on the Mid -Atlantic Region (MAR/AMTA) and the National Certification Board for Music Therapist, Inc. (CBMT). The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as *"the clinical and evidence based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program"* (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Often due to lack of licensure in PA confusion and also harm may be caused when at various facilities, administrators and sometimes consumers claim to have music therapy, when music making is in the form of entertainment in the hallway or they have a music medicine program???? This is not MT and in some incidents may cause harm for some individuals due to the lack of the rigorous training needed to become a credentialed music therapist. Confusion and the potential for harm for specific clients is often evident. While I've witnessed many benefits for clients who are treated by competent board certified music therapist, a few samples of those treated by untrained credentialed therapists are: the musician does not understand the diagnosis of a person with spastic Cerebral Palsy and uses over stimulating music that may cause increased spasticity rather than relaxation of muscles; or singing lyrics of a song that conveys a negative message that heightens the problems of a particular adult Psychiatric patient who is having major difficulties. A therapist job is to alleviate difficulties, solve problems while establishing a relationship through music rather than creating more. With my experience in supervising college students, I've had opportunity to witness and prepare competent music therapist, who work hard and deserve to find jobs in PA where there are so many needs. A state license in Music Therapy will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support **HB 1438** to provide for music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Mariam Pfeifer, IHM, MT-BC

1440 Penn Avenue

Scranton, PA 18509

Phone: 570/ 963-8598

Email: pfeifer@maryu.marywood.edu

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Dr. Heather Porter and I am the Chair of the Recreational Therapy Licensure Committee for Pennsylvania, as well as an Associate Professor at Temple University. Although I have not had the pleasure to work with music therapists in a clinical setting, I strongly support their licensure efforts as all healthcare professions, such as music therapy, should be licensed to ensure the safety of Pennsylvania citizens. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to license music therapists.

Board certified music therapists treat and work with patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Heather R. Porter, PhD, CTRS
Temple University
Dept. of Rehab Sciences
1700 N. Broad St., Suite 304D
Phila., PA 19122

Heather R. Porter, Ph.D., CTRS
Associate Professor

Temple University

College of Public Health
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
1700 N. Broad St. - Suite 304D
Philadelphia, PA 19122
215-204-5746 (phone)
215-204-1386 (fax)
hporter@temple.edu

From: **Nicole Pruitt** <Nicole.Pruitt@inglis.org>

Date: Fri, Mar 18, 2016 at 2:15 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>, "jharhart@pahousegop.com" <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, "wrcrawfor@pahousegop.com" <wrcrawfor@pahousegop.com>

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Nicole Pruitt and I am a Program Manager for the Inglis Adult Day Program. While working at Inglis, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists, and seen them work with the clients in my program.; I have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Music Therapists bring people together. Old, young, black, white, disabled, able bodied, and so on and so on... Music is a universal language and Music Therapists are able to use this language to evoke collaboration, and cooperation. Music Therapy reduces stress in the people I serve. Music Therapy is something that all people are "successful" at – the participants in my program do not fear failing or not being able to do the music. It is fabulous to see how engaging music therapy programs are.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Inglis remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Nicole Marie Pruitt

Program Manager, Inglis Day Program
2600 Belmont Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131-2799

Office [215-581-0736](tel:215-581-0736)

www.inglis.org

From: "Pruskowski, Jennifer" <pruskowskija@upmc.edu>
Date: Mar 17, 2016 7:51 PM
Subject: In support of HB 1438
To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>
Cc: "Tew, James" <tewxjd@upmc.edu>

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee,

Good evening. My name is Jenn Pruskowski and I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. My clinical specialty is palliative care and I am the sole clinical pharmacy support for the UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute.

I am writing your group today in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists, and I have seen first-hand the clinical impact they have on a patient's quality of life. These therapist have the ability to bring these patients to a place of peace, and comfort, that no medication, no medical intervention can do.

I am sure you have listened to a song before and it brings you back to a happy place – or memory. Maybe to a time when you were singing with your friends in a car as a teenager? Or your mother making cookies for Christmas? These memories via music are some of the strongest we have.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at UPMC and beyond remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients as much as they can (and our funding allows). The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,
Jenn Pruskowski

Jennifer Pruskowski, PharmD, BCPS, CGP, CPE
Assistant Professor | University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics
Palliative Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist | UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute (PSI)
UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute | Iroquois Building | Suite 405
3600 Forbes Avenue at Meyran Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA | 15213
Office: 412-864-2899 | Cell: 412-463-6217 | pruskowskija@upmc.edu



<http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/> | <http://www.upmc.com/psi>

Sun 3/13/2016 11:16 PM

Dear Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee,

As a Board Certified Music Therapist living and working in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania for over 26 years, I have seen the benefits of music therapy as well as problems that have occurred due to the lack of state licensure. In my music therapy practice, Music Therapy Associates, LLC, we have 14 board certified music therapists providing individual and group music therapy services throughout the Delaware Valley and Lehigh Valley areas. We provide services to persons of all ages and abilities in their homes, schools, nursing homes, hospitals and other community locations. Through the years, I have encountered facilities who advertised "Music Therapy Programs" when in fact, what they were providing was music entertainment, a listening program, a chorus program or a dance. When those who are not trained try to use music in a therapeutic way, to the detriment of the client, they are often not prepared or even aware of how to deal with the outcomes that may occur. As music therapists, we are trained in using the relationship between the client and therapist as well as the music to achieve non-musical goals. In the same way as you would not want a volunteer who sits and chats with a consumer to call themselves a Licensed Professional Counselor, Psychotherapist or social worker, it is not acceptable for a non-trained musician or volunteer to play live or recorded music and call themselves a music therapist.

State licensure for music therapy would be very beneficial for both facilities looking to provide music therapy services, potential employers of music therapists, families seeking music therapy services as well as those participating in music therapy programs. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org). With state licensure for music therapy, those hiring music therapists will be ensured quality and professional, ethical services from those who are also board certified and required to participate in continuing education.

Please support HB 1438 which would provide a music therapy licensure board and ensure the protection of consumers of music therapy services throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In harmony,
Kathy Purcell, MT-BC
Director, Music Therapy Associates, LLC
www.musictherapyassociates.com
www.facebook.com/musictherapyassociates
610-740-9890

From: Cindy Reichard [<mailto:pastcindy@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:11 AM
To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>
Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Cindy Reichard and I am a SLP working at Trinity East Elementary School contracted from Crossroads Speech and Hearing, inc., Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Sewickley on a PRN basis and I am an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church appointed as a volunteer chaplain at a continuum of care home, Masonic Village, of Sewickley. At Masonic Village I have had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients they serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I've seen music therapy help improve residents quality of life and positively impact progress toward their treatment goals.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Masonic Village remains the same. The board certified music therapists treat and work with patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Cindy Reichard, MCD, SLP-CCC
1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA. 15143
pastcindy@gmail.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello.

My name is Amy Riley and I am an autistic support teacher working at Easter Seals of Southeastern PA. While working at Easter Seals, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

My classroom receives music therapy twice a week for thirty minutes per session. Music therapy has always and is currently a highly preferred activity each week. Music therapy impacts the students in a variety of ways. The majority of the students in my classroom have little to no language, some of them being completely nonverbal. Language is included throughout each session and done so in a unique way that some students verbally speak more during music than any other time during the school day. Music therapy has the ability to calm, relax, and energize; each at different times when the students need it the most. We have been blessed with a wonderful music therapist who accommodates each session to the needs of the students.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Easter Seals remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Amy Riley
Special Education Teacher
Easter Seals of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Montgomery County Division
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpsville, PA 19443
(215) 368-7000 ext. 6218
ariley@easterseals-sepa.org

Like us on [Facebook](#)
Follow us on Twitter @EasterSealsofSEPA
Follow our blog www.easterseals-sepa.com

Sun 3/13/2016 11:16 PM

----- Original message -----

From: Lauren Rowe <lrowe@living-unlimitedinc.com>

Date: 03/11/2016 10:57 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>,

Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, pastate.task.force@gmail.com

Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Lauren Rowe and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I serve as the Music Therapy Manager at Living Unlimited Inc. At Living Unlimited, I supervise the work of eight other Board Certified Music Therapists who provide service to over 150 individuals and groups across Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and Snyder Counties. The individuals we support vary in age and diagnosis, including but not limited to people with autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, traumatic brain injury, dementia, as well as mental health needs. We serve the needs of these individuals by providing music therapy sessions in our five community based spaces, in homes, day programs, schools and a variety of facilities. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

In my time as a Board Certified Music Therapist, I have had many opportunities to speak about my profession with a variety of individuals. In that time, I have encountered individuals such as high school students, college students, teachers, and facilities who have claimed to provide music therapy but do not have the level of education and clinical training necessary to provide music in a safe and therapeutic manner to the citizens of Pennsylvania. Because of this, many of the presentations I make in the community focus on the education and clinical training necessary to become a Board Certified Music Therapist. Advocacy and education is an important part of my position and one that I take seriously to ensure that individuals are receiving services by a trained professional who is held to professional competencies, a code of ethics, standards of clinical practice and continuing education activities. A state licensure will ensure employers hire clinicians who are competent and well trained to serve the individuals of our commonwealth in the manner they deserve.

Please support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Best,

From: george.a.sanders@gmail.com [<mailto:george.a.sanders@gmail.com>] On Behalf Of George Sanders
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 11:18 PM
To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>; Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>; pastate.task.force@gmail.com
Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

We are the parents of two sons who have been positively impacted by music and a music therapist.

I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania.

As a business owner in a seasonal business we utilize part time staff to manage the workload. Two years ago we started working with a young lady that was starting a music therapy practice. She needed part time work because music therapy is not covered by insurance companies in this area. She needed another source of income to give her time to find ways to reach clients in need since they often could not afford another bill. I have seen the impact of her service through music lessons and the empowering connection she built with my children. It will be a slow process to get more music therapists if the market they need to access is blocked. I see licensure as a step toward including this important therapy in the overall health care system.

This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

George and Danielle Sanders
Red Lion Bed & Breakfast
www.redlionbandb.com

717-244-4739

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Linda Sanders and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in and around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I serve Pennsylvania residents who attend private and public school systems that serve students who have developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders. In 2015, I served 48 children and adolescents. I am an adjunct professor at Duquesne University and also am the Co-Director of Creative Therapies Enterprises, a small women owned business offering music therapy services to healthcare agencies, families and individuals.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

State licensure will provide protection to consumers while upholding the high standards of ethics and professional practice of board certified music therapists.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Sanders, MT-BC, LPC
1200 Laclair Street
Pittsburgh , PA 15218
Phone. [412-241-2792](tel:412-241-2792)
sanders.lin1@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Katie Sanford <krsanford90@gmail.com>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 12:43 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <Jharhart@pahousegop.com>

Cc: Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, PA State Task Force <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Kathleen Sanford and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I am a music therapist at Community Life in Tarentum, PA and am an independent contractor at two facilities in Allegheny County. Each year I serve on average 200 clients a year. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

When I graduated from Seton Hill University, I contacted facilities offering my services and would receive a reply that they already have a music therapist. After researching, there was no music therapist with the MT-BC credential working at those facilities. Without the education and training for music therapy, there can be potential harm when an untrained non-credentialed person uses music. There could be a traumatic event a client may have where the musician cannot process the information the client is giving. A credentialed music therapist is trained with not only the music training, but in counseling skills and psychology and are able to process feelings/information that may come up in a session. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Kathleen R. Sanford, MT-BC

7200 Beatty Dr. P306

Irwin, PA 15642

724-882-7382

Krsanford90@gmail.com/sanfordkr@upmc.edu

From: MOLLIE SANTEE [<mailto:msantee@moravian.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:27 PM
To: Marcia Hahn <Mhahn@pahousegop.com>
Subject: HB1438

Dear Rep. Hahn (Marcia),

I am writing to request your support of HB1438 which will provide Licensure for Music Therapists in the State of PA. I work in a Life Care community in Northampton County and have seen the benefit of music for residents as a form of communication. Often, it is one of the last remaining ways for families and caregivers to relate to people impacted by memory related diseases.

Music is not age specific, but it leaves an indelible imprint. People who experience trauma, developmental challenges and psychotropic issues find relief with musical therapy interventions.

Many of us can personally attest to the power of music to elicit specific feelings. Styles of rhythm and music affect each person in a specific way for calm and comfort or for inspiration and joy.

Trained therapists can help caregivers use music as a treatment plan that is non-invasive but has the power to enact an immediate remedy for someone who is suffering.

Although this bill was not listed in your cited bills on your webpage, I hope that you will use your influence to help this legislation to be passed.

Very truly yours,
Mollie Santee

Mollie M. Santee
Executive Director, Morningstar Senior Living Foundation



Morningstar Senior Living | 175 W. North Street | Nazareth, PA 18064
ph: 610.746.1000 | fx: 610.746.1023 | [website](#) | [facebook](#)

Five Star Rating | Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Best Continuing Care Community | The Morning Call's Readers' Choice Awards
Best Nursing Home 2015 | U.S. News & World Report
A Top Workplace 2016/The Morning Call

Date: March 16, 2016

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello! My name is Kim Schaffer and I am a Nurse at Allied Health Services of Scranton Pa. 18508. While working at Allied Services, I had the opportunity to work with Board Certified Music Therapist and also was affiliated with the Marywood University intern program. Overall I have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I can't begin to say how much music therapy has enriched the lives of the individuals within our facility. The Vocational Service Division's day program which serves individuals with various levels of both intellectual and physical disabilities, have experienced growth in all aspects of their cognitive, emotional, physical and social development. We are excited to say that we have 15-20 individuals who are apart of Allied Services Bell choir, and at least 50 individuals who are part of the presentation of "One Special Night presented at Christmas by the Allied Services Day Program. I invite any of you, to visit our program, if you want to see a fantastic bell choir, individual solo performances, drum playing by the hearing impaired, individuals who once chose to isolate themselves from groups, now joining in group activity, overall pride, confidence and great self esteem built for those we service then you are seeing what music therapy has accomplished for us! How could you not be an advocate for music therapy!

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Allied Health Service remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality is assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Kim Schaffer, Program Nurse
475 Morgan Highway
Vocational Day Program
Scranton Pa. 18508

Mon 3/14/2016 1:18 PM

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Julie Schlosser and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. My business, Arts for All, has provided contract-based music therapy services to individuals, schools, and human service agencies throughout the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania and Southern Tier of New York state for over 10 years. We have worked with hundreds of individuals over the years, through our contracts with early intervention, Wellsboro, Troy, Southern Tioga, and Corning-Painted Post school districts, Mansfield and Wellsboro senior centers, and Partners in Progress. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

As a business owner and practicing music therapist, I have encountered many times when I have had to advocate for services to be provided by a credentialed music therapist. For instance, I have contacted local long-term care facilities to provide music therapy services to assist Alzheimer's patients in maintaining cognitive functioning and social engagement, as well as anxiety management. Many of these facilities have told me that they already have "music therapy", when in reality they have performers come to entertain their residents regularly. There is a significant difference in the effects and goals of entertainment-based music and individualized music therapy services. Introducing state licensure is essential in avoiding situations like these, because it would lend greater credibility to the profession and lend added value to the immense amount of training that goes into becoming a professional music therapist.

Additionally, there are many under-served populations in our area, as well as across the commonwealth, that could receive increased access to services through state waivers and medical insurance with the added state licensure credentials. Not only would this benefit the citizens receiving services, it would also contribute greatly to our economy, providing more opportunities to self-employed music-therapists, like me, to expand their contracts and reach out to more individuals and agencies who may not have had the means to cover therapy fees before.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Julie Schlosser, MT-BC

151 Saint James St.
Mansfield, PA 16933
570-404-0809
arts4allmansfield@gmail.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello,

My name is Sara Schmuckler and I am a speech and language pathologist, clinical fellow working at Easter Seals of Southeastern PA. While working at Easter Seals, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

My primary goal as a speech and language pathologists is to help individuals communicate in a functional and efficient manner in order for them to have their needs met and live the best quality of life possible, whether that be through talking, a speech generating device, or simply able to connect on a personal level with the people around them. Some children and adults are not easily engaged in activities and it is often difficult to find tasks that are motivating for them. I have had the pleasure to witness first hand the power of the services provided by music therapists. Individuals who may not otherwise express any desire to communicate simply light up at the sound of music. The music therapist is able to adapt their presentation of songs to accommodate a variety of physical needs and cognitive levels. Children who have difficulty communicating have been observed to sing entire songs, improve their turn taking skills by singing, signing or gesturing back and forth with the music therapist and make meaningful eye contact with the individuals around them. Only a knowledgeable and trained music therapist would know how to elicit and to help nurture these beautiful and necessary moments.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Easter Seals remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a “music therapist” who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Sara E. Schmuckler, M.S., CF-SLP

Speech and Language Pathologist, Clinical Fellow
Easter Seals of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Montgomery County Division
1161 Forty Foot Road
Kulpsville, PA 19443
(215) 368-7000
sschmuckler@easterseals-sepa.org

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Bonnie J. Shaner and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. I have been employed in my current position at Community LIFE (day center PACE program for older adults) for almost 7 years. In that time, the value of Music Therapy has been widely recognized and embraced, resulting in the company hiring 1 full-time Music Therapist's at each of our 4 locations. Serving 150+ "participants" at the McKeesport location, the participants in the program not only enjoy and benefit from their involvement with music therapy here at the day center, but also have had the opportunity to give back to the community through performances at the local nursing homes.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Throughout my experience as a Music Therapist, I have witnessed a concerning false representation of Music Therapy and overall lack of awareness across the general population, news / media forums, and within the social service / medical arena. For example, I have encountered on several occasions an instrumentalist that may be providing "therapeutic music" in a Hospice unit and they or the facility misleadingly advertise that they offer Music Therapy services. Even the "Alive Inside" IPOD program has generated great misunderstanding of whether or not this program is considered "Music Therapy" (which it is not).

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Bonnie J. Shaner
3430 Dogwood Pl.
West Homestead, PA. 15120
(412) 818-9791
BonnieShaner@gmail.com

March 20, 2016

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Kathy Keener Shantz and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania at Hershey Medical Center half-time, and at Masonic Village in Elizabethtown half-time. In a typical week, I serve about 20 pediatric or adult patients at Hershey Medical Center in individual sessions, and about 50 older adult residents at Masonic Village per week in both group and individual sessions. Through Music Therapy, I address goals for reduced pain and anxiety, increased emotional coping, as well as goals for social, cognitive, and physical domains, and end of life sessions involving family members. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Presently, anyone can claim to be a music therapist without adequate training. For example, music often evokes emotions in people, especially when residents or patients are vulnerable. A volunteer who may be “musical” but without additional board certified music therapy training may cause harm by not being able to process these emotions when they arise in patients. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Keener Shantz, MA, MT-BC
280 Ivy Terrace
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-560-7799
kkeenershantz@gmail.com

Angela Kelly

From: Simko, Melanie <simkoml@upmc.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 11:01 AM
To: Julie Harhart; Angela Kelly; Wayne Crawford; 'pastate.task.force@gmail.com'
Subject: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Melanie Simko and I am a Registered Dietitian working at Community Life. While working at Community Life, I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I have observed the positive impact of music therapy for elderly participants, particularly those who have dementia or Alzheimer's disease. The increased socialization and enhanced level of engagement with these participants are striking. Our music therapist offers personalized therapy to our participants that truly improve their quality of life in so many ways. If their mood is improved as a result of music therapy it can even have a positive impact on their nutrition status as their appetite can improve if they are less depressed or anxious. I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Community Life remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Melanie Simko RD, LDN

Registered Dietitian
Community LIFE
702 Second Ave.
Tarentum, PA 15084
Direct: 724-230-3267
Main: 724-230-3240
Fax: 724-230-3270



Website: www.commlife.org

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Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Kelly M. Smith and I am the parent of a daughter who is becoming a board-certified music therapist. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Kelly M. Smith
519 Winola Road
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570-587-2222
papoolgal@hotmail.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Katherine Soule, and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist working at Inglis House, a wheelchair community in Philadelphia. While working at Inglis House, I have the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Music therapy builds confidence, promotes relaxation, enhances communication and community and provides an improved quality of life for our residents. I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Inglis House remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a “music therapist” who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,
Katherine V. Soule, MS, CCC/ SLP
Inglis House
2600 Belmont Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131
Katherine.soule@comcast.net

March 22, 2016

RE: In support of HB 1438

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Carol-Ann Denning-Spangler and I am the proud mother of a daughter with Down syndrome. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

My child Christina has received music therapy services for about 1 ½ years. Our local Down syndrome support and advocacy group introduced us to our Music Therapist. After some group sessions, I realized how beneficial this therapy would be for Christina's speech and fine motor skills. She loves music and this motivates her to practice without even knowing she is "working". A recent benefit is her interest in learning to read music. I am amazed at how enthused she is with practicing her notes and beats. One day, she didn't even have time to sing during her session because she wanted to finish all of her worksheet. It is richer experience for Christina to be seeing a music therapist to learn piano – our therapist, Pauline, knows about disabilities and how to adjust the practice and instruction as needed. I love hearing Christina go to her room, shut the door, and practice her exercises on her own.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Carol-Ann Denning-Spangler

Carol-Ann Denning-Spangler
3935 Barachel Drive
York, PA 17402
717-757-0439
gadian@comcast.net

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Sarah F. Spiegelhoff and I am a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) working at New York Chiropractic College. Prior to my move to NY, I worked as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC; PC004914) in Pennsylvania. While primarily working at Penndel Mental Health Center, serving clients across Bucks County, I had the opportunity to work alongside a variety of providers in community, school, and independent practices, including creative art therapists and music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made to support consumers of mental health care. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Throughout my work in PA and NY, I have come to know various creative art and music therapists and seen how their works has impacted the lives of the clients they treat. This work has been demonstrated to help the recovery process for children hospitalized children with cancer. Also, some of the most impressive findings from music therapy is its ability to help children with autism regain communication skills and develop healthy expression of emotions. That said, music and other creative therapies are not limited to work with children. For example, music and movement therapies have been used to serve older middle aged adults transition into a new stage of their lives and reclaim their identity through movement, expression, and sound.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services remains the same across the state and is aligned with the standards for certified and licensed professionals in other states, such as NY. Board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Sarah F. Spiegelhoff, Ed.S., LMHC, NCC
Associate Director for Counseling Services
New York Chiropractic College
2360 State Rte. 89
Seneca Falls, New York 13148
sspiegelhoff@nycc.edu

From: Josh Stevenson <stevensonjp35@comcast.net>
Date: Mar 19, 2016 11:45 AM
Subject: In support of HB 1438
To: Julie Harhart <harhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>
Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Josh Stevenson and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I am employed by a company called Living Unlimited. I work with children who have behavioral health needs as well as adults who are in need of improving life skills and independence. Through our group programs in Harrisburg and Milton, PA, we work with at least 100 clients a year, many of whom graduate our programming to peruse community re-entry, job coaching, and volunteer work. Music therapy plays a large role in our treatment and rehabilitation with these individuals. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

In my career, I have worked alongside several people who lead singing or play music for entertainment. These individuals have labeled what they do as music therapy, I believe, to the detriment of the music therapy profession. Music is entertainment but music experiences and interventions can also be used in a purposeful manner to motivate and facilitate a person in meeting their goals and improving quality of life. Music therapy represents the later. A state licensure will provide employers with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to a high standard of ethics and professional practice. It will also ensure competency within the profession through board certification and continued educational experiences.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Josh Stevenson
215 Lancaster Ave. Mount Gretna, PA
(717) 316-5138
stevensonjp35@comcast.net

From: "Stewart, Barbara" <bstewart3@hmc.psu.edu>
Date: Mar 18, 2016 12:57 PM
Subject: In Support of HB 1438
To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly
<Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, 'PASTF'
<pastate.task.force@gmail.com>
Cc:

Hello. My name is Barbara Stewart and I am a Licensed Practical Nurse working at Penn State Hershey Developmental Pediatrics. While working alongside of Drs. Cheryl Tierney and Jeanette Ramer, who make recommendations to work with skilled music therapists. It is amazing to see the positive effects and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

Provide information on how you have seen music therapy impact patient progress towards their treatment goals, quality of life, decrease pain, decrease anxiety, increase coping, etc.
I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services remain the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Barbara Stewart, LPN
Nurse Clinician for the Section of Developmental Pediatrics
Drs. Jeanette Ramer & Cheryl Tierney
Mail Code: H085
500 University Drive Box 850
Hershey, PA 17033-0850
(717) 531-8414 Main
(717) 531-4400 Nurse
(717) 531-0276 Fax
Email: devpeds@hmc.psu.edu

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Ellen Stewart and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I am currently completing my master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling as there is currently no way to gain licensure as a music therapist. I have worked as a consultant in the past within nursing homes serving about one hundred clients, with children who have special needs serving approximately three hundred clients, and am currently working with adult clients who have intellectual disabilities as well as mental health issues, making them dual diagnosed.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

I had to return to school to gain my master's degree in order to become licensed as a counselor in order to utilize music therapy techniques within the counseling sessions. Otherwise, how could I bill for my services? In this day in age, it is imperative that clinicians are licensed or they cannot receive payments for their services. I have also seen "music practitioners" pretend to be music therapists and have given music therapy a bad name due to their lack of expertise in offering evidence based interventions.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Most sincerely,

Ellen E. Stewart, MT-BC
300 Sanrue Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904
814-467-4552
j7stewart@verizone.net

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Teresa Stickle <tstickle@living-unlimitedinc.com>

Date: Mar 17, 2016 4:53 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>,

Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com"
<pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

I am writing to express my support for music therapy licensure in Pennsylvania. I have been working with music therapists since 1990 when I began employment with Living Unlimited Inc. I am currently the President of this company, whose mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to maximize strengths and independence across environments. Music therapy has always been a service of the company since its development in 1986 and I have witnessed the power of this therapy for persons of all ages, disability types and level of challenges. Our music therapy program has expanded and served on average 145 individuals in calendar year 2015.

As you may know, the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

AMTA- American Music Therapy Association
www.musictherapy.org

The American Music Therapy Association is a resource and organization dedicated to professional music therapists. Benefits gained from using music as a tool include

...

As I talk with families, consumers, community agencies and facilities, it is apparent that there is a lack of knowledge regarding this field as well as confusion as to who is eligible to provide the service. Often times, "playing music in the background" is touted as music therapy, which it clearly is not as it is not provided in a structured therapeutic environment by a qualified and certified therapist. I am sure these same persons would not confuse talking with a friend about issues as psychotherapy. I believe that one of the major reasons for this confusion is the fact that music therapy does not require licensure as many of other similar disciplines do as well as a lack of education about what music therapy really entails.

As an employer of nine music therapists, I believe that a state licensure program will provide me and other employers with high level personnel. It is imperative that therapists be trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice standards that will come with licensure. This process will also serve to ensure the continued need for competency through certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the

Sincerely,

Teresa M Stickle, President
Living Unlimited Inc
4601 Locust Lane, Ste 202
Harrisburg PA 17109
717-526-2111
tstickle@living-unlimitedinc.com

Dear Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee,

My name is Alysha Suley and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working at a state hospital in Pennsylvania, where I provide music therapy services on each unit, hospital wide, for about 70 consumers each month. Prior to securing my current position, I spent several years working in another field to make enough money to support myself and pay my student loans while I attempted to find work as a music therapist. During that time, I offered in-services and informational sessions free-of-charge to several facilities in my area, including nursing homes, schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and home health programs. Time after time, facility after facility, I was told that, while the administrators could see the potential benefit of offering music therapy to their clients/patients/residents, they could not afford to hire a music therapist. I was offered the opportunity to provide entertainment on a monthly basis, but none of the facilities I met with could find it in their budget to pay for music therapy assessment, treatment, and documentation. One facility told me that they had a music therapist, but described a music performer. While music performers may provide music that benefits people, they have not had the years of clinical training and supervision that music therapists are required to have, and may unintentionally, or unknowingly, cause harm to vulnerable individuals due to a lack of training and supervision. Music is a powerful, powerful tool, capable of causing harm when misapplied. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Alysha D. Suley, MM, MT-BC
24 Youngs Hill Road,
Benton, PA 17814
[570-316-1899](tel:570-316-1899)

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Brigette Sutton, and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I have been the Director of Music Therapy at Villa St. Joseph, a skilled nursing facility in Baden, PA, for over eight years. In this capacity, I provide music therapy services to older adults including those with dementia, as well as inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation clients. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org<<http://www.musictherapy.org>>).

In the nursing care setting, there is increasing awareness of music-based programs such as Music and Memory and entertainers. While it is encouraging to promote the benefits of music, these programs also create confusion among families, residents, and treatment team members about what music therapy is, and why facilities should invest in music therapy jobs. However, music therapists can and do address clinical goals that are beyond the scope and intention of these other music-based programs. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Brigette K. Sutton, MA, MT-BC
Neurologic Music Therapist
Director of Music Therapy
Villa St. Joseph
1030 State St.
Baden, PA 15005
724.869.6342
www.villastjoseph.org<<http://www.villastjoseph.org/>>

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Jennifer Swanson and I am a Masters level Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I currently work 32 hours/week for a hospice company, providing music therapy to patients/families in the 5 county greater Philadelphia area. I also serve clients as a private practice within Philadelphia for adults with special needs, those suffering from chronic scarcity, among others. In a typical year I provide music therapy services to 300+ clients.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

As the Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative to the Professional Advocacy Committee, I have seen several examples of misrepresentation of music therapy that licensure could prevent. For example, music volunteers often are recruited into hospices and nursing homes and unknowingly provide music that can be emotionally traumatic for people with declining cognitive function. A music therapist is able to assess for this and address it when comes up, where a volunteer is not. If music therapy was a licensed profession and therefore more likely to be included under waiver programs, this would happen much less, as more music therapists could be employed.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Swanson, MMT, MT-BC

4611 Cedar Ave. #3, Philadelphia, PA 19143

708-606-0461

jenniferswanso@gmail.com

--

Jennifer Swanson, MMT, MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist
708-606-0461
Dreaming Tree Music

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Aaron Teague and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in and around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I serve Pennsylvania residents in hospitals as an employee and through my business Music Journey, LLC. In the past year I have served over 300 clients in six hospitals in the Pittsburgh area. I have been employed by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the University of Pittsburgh to provide these services. I have served clients in local group home settings where my business is contracted to provide services for adults living in the community. I have served local family's and individuals in my office setting in the Ben Avon Borough outside of Pittsburgh.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Aaron K Teague, MA, MT-BC, LPC
7035 Flaccus Rd
Pittsburgh , PA 15202
Phone. 412-761-0751
Email. aaronkteague@gmail.com

Aaron K Teague

March 4, 2016

Jeanette C. Ramer, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Director, Medical Pediatric Rehabilitation
Developmental Pediatrician

Cheryl D. Tierney, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Developmental Pediatrician

Mark Demoto, MEd
Developmental Specialist
717 531 7776 Tel

Barbara McCafferty, LPN
Nurse Clinician

Madame Chair Harhart
and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello, my name is Cheryl Tierney and I am the Section Chief of Behavior and Developmental Pediatrics at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. While working at Hershey Children's Hospital, I had the opportunity to work with music therapists from around the region and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I would like to review and emphasize the many benefits I see when children receive music therapy. First let me explain that music therapy, by a board certified professional, is different than someone coming into the hospital setting and playing music for patients. Understanding that there is potential for harm if music is used with patients without the proper training is very important. For example, infants can become overstimulated by music that is too loud or music played for too long. Children with autism have complex needs and music therapists are trained to address them through understanding their sensory sensitivities. While those that simply entertain with music have a role, conducting a proper assessment, treatment plan, and documentation are important aspects of the care provided by a music therapist. Licensing music therapists is imperative to maintain quality and support for patients in the medical setting.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely, 

Cheryl D. Tierney, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Section Chief, Behavior and Developmental Pediatrics
Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital
Division of Rehabilitation and Development
500 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033-0850
Phone 717-531-8414 Fax 717-531-0276
ctierney@hmc.psu.edu



Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Lisa Tischler and I am the Coordinator of Volunteer Services working at Heartland Hospice. While working at Heartland I have had the opportunity to work alongside a music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I have been at the bedside of an actively dying patient and seen how the actions of our music therapist visibly calmed the patient. The therapist then helped include the family in what she was doing. It was one of the most moving experiences I have ever had. In addition our music therapist has helped many patients create legacy projects that they can leave to their families after their deaths. She helps dementia patients do life review – dementia patients who barely speak and often don't remember family members will hum or sing along to songs from their youth. These are just a few of the examples of the complex and valuable work music therapists do on a daily basis.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at our hospice remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients every day. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a “music therapist” who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Lisa Tischler
Volunteer Coordinator
Heartland Hospice
Lisa.tischler@hcr-manorcare.com

Lisa Tischler | Volunteer Coordinator
Tel: 610.941.6700 | Email: lisa.tischler@hcr-manorcare.com | Fax: 610.941.6440
www.heartlandhospice.com

 Heartland EL
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PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION

March 22, 2016

Chair Harhart, Democratic Chair Readshaw,
and fellow Committee-members
Professional Licensure Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

RE: Consideration of HB 1438, Music Therapist License Bill

Achieving the “American Dream” would not be possible without the right to earn a living. For that reason, economic liberty is “the most precious liberty that man possesses.”¹ Yet today, one-third of all U.S. workers must get some form of government permission before going to work—typically in the form of an occupational license.² These laws impose expensive and time-consuming requirements on people before they may go into a trade or start a business, and can include a combination of fees, education and training requirements, and examinations.

HB 1438 would saddle Pennsylvania music therapists with all of these burdens with no resulting benefit to the public. The only beneficiaries are a select group of favored private parties: existing practitioners that would enjoy “recognition” of their profession. That is hardly a concept that justifies burdening entrepreneurs and restricting the choices of the public.

While proponents claim that occupational licensing laws like HB 1438 exist to protect the public from unscrupulous or incompetent practitioners, the evidence shows that these laws are often wholly unrelated to public safety.³ Instead, they are frequently used by existing practitioners to limit future competition and increase their own profits.⁴ This is precisely what is happening today in Pennsylvania with HB 1438, and exactly what makes it unconstitutional.

The significant costs of occupational licensing

Estimates suggest that licensing laws result in as many as 2.85 million fewer jobs nationally, and create an annual drag of \$203 billion in added costs to consumers.⁵ In fact, one recent study found Pennsylvania to be the thirty-eighth most broadly and onerously licensed state in the nation.⁶

Licensing is also associated with stunted employment growth rates. Over a ten-year span, occupations in licensed states were shown to suffer a twenty percent lower growth rate than in states without licensure.⁷ The reason for this is simple: by definition, barriers to entry into a given profession limit the number of people who may enter that trade.

While occupational licensing laws impose large social and economic costs on the public at large, racial minorities, the less fortunate, and other politically powerless groups are hardest hit. One reason is that they cannot muster the political power to protect themselves from legislation that

targets them. Another is that they cannot afford to satisfy the high burdens that occupational licensing often requires.⁸ As a result, occupational licensing bans the people most in need of economic opportunity from entire professions, often for reasons having nothing to do with their ability to competently perform or provide service.

The high burdens of HB 1438's requirements

HB 1438 requires prospective music therapists to satisfy four requirements: (1) be at least eighteen years old; (2) hold a bachelor's degree or higher in music therapy, or its equivalent from a program approved by the American Music Therapy Association; (3) complete 1200 hours of clinical training; and (4) pass the examination for board certification offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT).⁹ This is no small burden.

First, an applicant must have a bachelor's or graduate degree in music therapy. This means that if a prospective music therapist has not yet gone to college, she must enroll in a music therapy program. If she already has a music degree, but not a music therapy degree, she must return to school to complete a master's program. If however, she has already completed a bachelor's degree in an unrelated program, she must return to school and complete another bachelor's degree in music therapy. That's because a graduate degree in music therapy can only be earned by someone with a bachelor's degree in music.¹⁰

HB 1438 does not allow people to bypass the educational requirements through experience. Regardless of the number of years of expertise a person may have acquired through interning or other supervised work, an applicant will only qualify for licensure if he or she satisfies the burdensome degree requirements. Because the vast majority of college graduates do not get jobs in fields related to their college majors,¹¹ many current and future music therapists will be forced to return to school for another degree if HB 1438 passes.

Second, applicants must undergo 1,200 hours of clinical training—an exorbitant requirement. For comparison, Pennsylvania only requires about 160 hours for emergency medical technicians,¹² and only about 930 hours of training for massage therapists.¹³ It is absurd to suggest that music therapy warrants more than seven times the amount of training required for emergency medical services—on which people's lives depend. Furthermore, since most people will now have spent the time and money to earn a college degree in music therapy, requiring thirty weeks of training before they can seek certification creates an outrageously substantial added burden for prospective music therapists.

Third, applicants must pass the CBMT exam—which imposes additional requirements. After paying a fee of \$325, an applicant must take the three-hour, multiple-choice, 150 question certification exam.¹⁴ Maintaining CBMT certification requires re-certification every five years by retaking the exam or completing more than eighty-three hours of continuing education.¹⁵

In sum, HB 1438 imposes well over four years of training and tens of thousands of dollars in costs. And once all that is completed, the prospective therapist must pass an exam. As should now be

evident, HB 1438 erects significant barriers to entering the music therapist profession. At a minimum, proponents of this bill should be required to show why such barriers are needed to protect the public.

Abuse of occupational licensing laws

With such significant costs and burdens associated with occupational licensing, it is reasonable to wonder how licensure has come to be so prevalent in the first place. Occupational licensing laws have a long, sordid history rooted in discrimination based on race and national origin.¹⁶ Though they are now typically justified as necessary to protect health and safety, licensing statutes are usually requested by the industry members themselves. This is because many want to limit their competition and raise prices by taking advantage of government-imposed barriers and restricting the number of people allowed to enter the profession.

Unfortunately, music therapists have taken advantage of their organizational skills and are actively engaged nationwide in exactly these efforts. Since 2005, AMTA and CBMT have been involved in a joint “State Recognition Operational Plan.”¹⁷ Implementation of that plan has resulted in the creation of “state task forces” in thirty-five states.¹⁸ To provide additional support, regional organizations have also been formed. The Mid-Atlantic Region of the AMTA,¹⁹ providing coverage from Virginia to New York, has six active state task forces, including one in Pennsylvania. To date, these efforts have succeeded in convincing four states to license music therapists and three to implement registration requirements.²⁰ Currently, industry members are trying to add Pennsylvania and seven other states to that list.

Music therapists claim that other state laws necessitate licensure of their profession. They assert that existing regulations sometimes require educational and healthcare providers to have a state license, so in the absence of licensure of music therapists, current and potential clients cannot access music therapy services within educational and healthcare facilities.²¹ But even assuming this is true, creating a new, burdensome, government-enforced licensing scheme that stifles entrepreneurship is not the logical way to solve the problem. Amending the existing regulations to accommodate music therapists, and enhancing economic liberty for Pennsylvania citizens, makes far better sense.

Once licensing is in place, it is very difficult to repeal it if it proves unnecessary or harmful.²² Those protected from competition have a strong interest in ensuring licensure stays in place. In fact, in the last forty years there have been only eight successful instances of delicensing a profession at the state level.²³ And, in four of those eight instances, attempts to relicense the profession soon followed.²⁴ That is why it is vital that the legislature determine that a license is truly necessary to protect the public—not vested interests—before enacting a tremendously burdensome law.

Occupational regulation can offend the U.S. Constitution

HB 1438 does not just burden the right to earn a living; it also burdens speech. AMTA defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized

goals...”²⁵ In practice, a music therapist “provides the indicated treatment including creating, singing, moving to, and/or listening to music.”²⁶ These speech activities are fully protected by the First Amendment.

Government restrictions on speech “must demonstrate that the harms” it seeks to address “are real” and that the restriction “will in fact alleviate [those harms] to a material degree.”²⁷ The legislature cannot rely on speculation, it must “base its conclusions upon substantial evidence.”²⁸ If HB 1438 is signed into law and subsequently challenged in court, the burden of proving the speech restriction’s efficacy will fall on the government.²⁹

In 2014, the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals struck down a license requirement for tour guides in Washington, D.C. There, the Court invalidated the law under the First Amendment because the government failed to show any evidence that the dangers it claimed unlicensed professionals presented actually existed.³⁰ Even assuming the harms existed, the Court still would have struck down the law because a licensing system that created a barrier to entering the profession was not “narrowly tailored” to prevent harm from unqualified tour guides.³¹

Helpfully, the Court offered three examples of actions the District could have taken that would have been less restrictive—and satisfied narrow tailoring—while still effectively protecting the public from any alleged harms.³² Most relevant to music therapy, one of the Court’s examples was a voluntary certification program.³³ In other words, the Court recognized that the availability of voluntary certification would provide the public with a reliable source of qualified practitioners without erecting unnecessary barriers to free speech and the right to earn a living.

As in that case, the government and the various music therapist organizations calling for regulating their profession have failed to provide evidence of any harms that require this legislation. Perusal of the several websites advocating for licensure and registration do not mention any harms that unqualified music therapists cause. In fact, it puzzles the mind to imagine what real harm could result from music therapy performed by someone who is unqualified.

Even if playing Mozart when Beethoven is more appropriate could be said to cause “harm”, the government would have a hard time proving that this law, with its burdensome provisions, is narrowly tailored to preventing that harm. This last point proved to be fatal in the D.C. tour guides case. Just as tour guides had ample incentives beyond government prerogatives to perform well, or to obtain voluntary certification, music therapists do too. As a result, a license provides nothing that voluntary certification and market forces do not already create. While Pennsylvania may certainly forbid music therapists from engaging in fraud or dishonesty, or impose licensing requirements that actually advance some public safety concern, HB 1438’s unjustified and burdensome requirements are unconstitutional.

Conclusion

Implementation of new licenses should be opposed when they do not protect the health and safety

of the public because they harm entrepreneurs and offend constitutional values. The voluntary certification program created by the CBMT for music therapists, the MT-BC, adequately creates industry standards and protects the public. And through their lobbying efforts, the AMTA and the various task forces have shown themselves to be perfectly capable of creating awareness of their profession without needing official government “recognition” through licensing.

In agreement is California Governor, Jerry Brown (far from a *laissez-faire* deregulator), who recently vetoed a bill that would have merely regulated music therapists’ use of the title, “board certified.” He viewed this as unnecessary in light of the CBMT credential. This established, voluntary certification program gives consumers enough resources to choose a qualified music therapist without government intervention. State regulation causes direct social and economic harm to others, and is the wrong medicine for patients who may benefit from wider, not narrower, availability of music therapists. HB 1438 is bad for consumers, bad for entrepreneurs, and importantly, unconstitutional.

Sincerely,



Caleb R. Trotter
Attorney
crt@pacificlegal.org

1. *Barksy v. Bd. of Regents*, 347 U.S. 442, 472 (1954) (Douglas, J., dissenting).
2. Dept. of Treasury Off. of Econ. Pol’y, et. al., *Occupational Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers* 3 (July 2015); https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/licensing_report_final_nonembargo.pdf.
3. See Morris M. Kleiner, *Licensing Occupations: Ensuring Quality or Restricting Competition?* (Kalamazoo: Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2006).
4. See *Hoover v. Ronwin*, 466 U.S. 558, 584 (1984) (Stevens, J., dissenting) (“private parties have used licensing to advance their own interests in restraining competition at the expense of the public interest”).
5. Morris M. Kleiner, *Occupational Licensing: Protecting the Public Interest or Protectionism?* 3 (Kalamazoo: Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2011).
6. Dick M. Carpenter II, Ph.D., et. al., *License to Work: A National Study of Burdens from Occupational Licensing* 112 (Institute for Justice, 2012).
7. Kleiner, *supra* note 5 at 2-3.
8. See David E. Harrington & Jaret Treber, *Designed to Exclude: How Interior Design Insiders Use Government Power to Exclude Minorities & Burden Consumers* (Institute for Justice, 2009).

9. HB 1438 § 501(i).

10. Unlike other graduate programs, music therapy is more restrictive in that admission is typically not granted into a graduate program unless the applicant has an undergraduate degree in music therapy or music. *See e.g.* Admissions Requirements, Master of Arts in Music Therapy and Counseling, Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions. <http://drexel.edu/cnhp/academics/graduate/MA-Music-Therapy-Counseling/>.

11. Jaison R. Abel & Richard Dietz, *Do Big Cities Help College Graduates Find Better Jobs?* (Liberty Street Economics, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 2013), <http://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2013/05/do-big-cities-help-college-graduates-find-better-jobs.html#.VmcYuPkrKUK> (calculating that only 27.3 percent of college graduates work in jobs related to their college major).

12. Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Medical Technician Certification. <http://www.pa-ems.org/levels-of-certification.htm#EMT>.

13. Carpenter, *supra* note 6 at 112.

14. Program for Board Certification in Music Therapy, *Candidate Handbook* (The Certification Board for Music Therapists, June 2015), http://www.cbmt.org/upload/CBMT_Handbook_2015.pdf.

15. CBMT Recertification FAQ, <http://www.cbmt.org/recertification/recertification-faq/>.

16. *See* Timothy Sandefur, *Testimony to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Briefing on Regulatory Barriers to Entrepreneurship and Consequences for Civil Rights* (Pacific Legal Foundation 2013), http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2206438.

17. *Implementation of AMTA and CBMT State Recognition Operational Plan* (American Music Therapy Association), <http://www.musictherapy.org/policy/stateadvocacy/> (last visited March 21, 2016).

18. *Id.*

19. About Mid-Atlantic Region of American Music Therapy Association, <http://mar-amta.org/about/>.

20. *Music Therapy Licensure Legislation Signed into Law!* (American Music Therapy Association), <http://www.musictherapy.org/policy/stateadvocacy/> (last visited March 21, 2016) (North Dakota and Nevada created licenses in 2011, Georgia in 2012, and Oregon in July, 2015); *State Licensure* (The Certification Board for Music Therapists), <http://www.cbmt.org/examination/state-licensure/> (last visited March 21, 2016) (Wisconsin, Utah, and Rhode Island have created registration schemes).

21. *State Recognition: Licensure FAQ*, (The Certification Board for Music Therapists), <http://www.cbmt.org/advocacy/state-recognition/> (last visited March 21, 2016).

22. *See generally* United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The de-licensing of occupations in the United States*, (Monthly Labor Review, May 2015).

23. *Id.*

24. *Id.*

25. *What is Music Therapy?* (American Music Therapy Association), <http://www.musictherapy.org/about/musictherapy/> (last visited March 21, 2016).

26. *Id.*

27. *Edenfield v. Fane*, 507 U.S. 761, 770-71 (1993).

28. *Turner Broad. Sys., Inc. v. FCC*, 520 U.S. 180, 196 (1996).

29. *Edwards v. District of Columbia*, 755 F.3d 996, 1003 (D.C. Cir. 2014) (citing *Lorillard Tobacco Co. v. Reilly*, 533 U.S. 525, 566 (2001)).

30. *Id.* at 1009.

31. *Id.*

32. *Id.*

33. *Id.*

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Amy van Brug and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I am currently employed as a Director of Therapeutic Recreation at a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Philadelphia. After working to build my career in music therapy as a clinician, I found that due to the amount of misrepresentation of music therapy services provided in long term care communities, it would be more important for me to step aside from my clinical work and move my focus towards educating and advocating for the appropriate and ethical use of music in long term care communities. I began my practice in music therapy working with adults in long term care, both medical and behavioral health settings; parents and children during supervised visitation at family court; children and adolescents in short term behavioral health settings; men in maximum security state prisons; older adults in long term care; and older adults in hospice and palliative care. I am very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with all of these individuals in each of these settings, often bringing one of the few forms of therapy that my clients felt comfortable, interested or invested in.

From my most recent experience, as interest in the effects of music grows, more music is being brought into long term care communities in a way that may not always be appropriate; entertainers may be playing songs that trigger negative thoughts or strong emotions, music may be turned up too loud in an effort to "engage" residents causing further damage and pain for frail ears, music may also increase agitation or cause discomfort for individuals who may be experiencing complex situations such as depression, pain or withdrawal as they approach the end of their life. Music causes strong reactions, many times these are positive reactions, however there is just as much potential to cause significant negative reactions.

I often encounter claims of "music therapists" looking to "do music therapy" at my community where many individuals are misguided and misleading others. I have had contracted vendors making these claims, marketing departments misinforming potential consumers about available services even executive administrators misguided as to the differences between music therapy services and related fields who use music. Our music therapy community works diligently to educate, advocate and inform regarding these differences on a national, state and personal level, however, more support and more regulation is needed.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as "the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program" (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org). Music therapists complete extensive higher education training in musicianship skills, however they also receive significant education and training in therapeutic skills such as assessment, documentation, observation and ethics. This therapeutic relationship is a very significant aspect of the role of a music therapist, in many ways, it is just as important as the music. In order to ensure that individuals are receiving proper and ethical care, music therapy needs to be conducted by someone with the appropriate level of training.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Amy van Brug MT-BC
2959 Chatham St
Philadelphia, PA 19134
amyvanbrug@gmail.com

March 18, 2016

Dear Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello, my name is Lisa M. Wadding and I am a Registered Nurse working at Community Life in Tarentum, PA. While working at Community Life, I have had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I feel that music therapy has really helped with relieving patient's anxiety and pain tolerance.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services at Community Life remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a "music therapist" who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Wadding, RN
Community Life
702 2nd Ave.
Tarentum, PA 15084
drumlm@upmc.edu

From: Gerren <iamanarch@hotmail.com>

Date: Mar 18, 2016 9:00 PM

Subject: In support of HB 1438

To: Julie Harhart <jharhart@pahousegop.com>, Angela Kelly <Akelly@pahousegop.com>, Wayne Crawford <Wcrawfor@pahousegop.com>, "pastate.task.force@gmail.com" <pastate.task.force@gmail.com>

Cc:

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

We are the parents of a six-year-old with autism and apraxia. We are writing to give our support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist – board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania. This bill is important because it will allow Pennsylvania 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.

We have attempted to find a music therapist for our son, Owen, for the past three years and have been on multiple waiting lists but are constantly told that no therapists are available. We know music therapy has immeasurable results in children with autism and speech/language disorders. Owen's language has increased exponentially over the past year, especially when music has been involved. He was making minimal sounds to communicate with us when he was three and four, but since starting kindergarten, he has learned the Pledge of Allegiance, the Star-Spangled Banner, and several Christmas songs through practice with his classmates (chanting and singing). He learns language from songs and has recently become more adept at inserting new words into songs to match the context of the setting he's recreating (using "Wheels on the Bus" to sing about getting on the bus and going to school).

We are hopeful that when this bill is passed, more music therapists will be able to become licensed, and insurance companies will be more willing to cover music therapy services for our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Daymond and Gerren Wagner

Tue 3/15/2016 10:31 PM

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is June Walker and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I currently see a small caseload of mostly private pay clients in and around the Lehigh Valley. My clients consist of children, adolescents, and older adults with/without special needs (including autism spectrum disorder and trauma treatment) or in need of adapted music lessons. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Many of the people I encounter in my day-to-day practice (other than clients) are not aware of the difference between music therapy as a profession and the therapeutic use of music in everyday life. Music itself does have intrinsic healing qualities, and people are drawn to types of music that soothe or help in self regulation. While this is certainly an admirable trait to encourage everyone to use music to aid in health, music therapy as a profession and a practice goes further and deeper. With the help of a trained and certified music therapist, a client is able to navigate the various challenges and pitfalls that occur in life, finding ways to understand themselves better, learn useful coping skills, find ways to express various emotional states and even change emotional states in a healthy manner, as well as achieve whatever goals the client has or makes. A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

June M. Walker, M.A., MT-BC

June M. Walker, M.A., MT-BC
811 N. Jordan St.
Allentown, PA 18102
jmwalker4479@gmail.com
cell: (484) 664-0353

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

Hello. My name is Susan Werner RN BSN and I am a nurse working at Allegheny Health Network. While working in home care I had the opportunity to work alongside music therapists and have been impressed at the clinical impact that music therapy has made in the lives of the patients I serve. I am writing in support of HB 1438, to create a music therapy licensure board.

I have seen music therapy help in pain reduction . I have seen patients respond to music therapy when nothing else helps.

I believe that the establishment of a music therapy licensure board in Pennsylvania will help ensure that the quality of music therapy services remains the same. Our board certified music therapists treat and work with our patients on a daily basis. The difference between a board certified music therapist, with the credential MT-BC, vs. an individual claiming to be a “music therapist” who does not have the training and experience of being supervised in a medical treatment setting can be detrimental to the progress and growth of our patients. It is vital to all residents and consumers of healthcare in Pennsylvania that this level of quality be assured through the creation of Music Therapy Licensure.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting “yes” on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Susan Werner RN BSN
Allegheny Health Network
Hawerns60@gmail.com

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Lindsey Wommer, and I am a program specialist and a program director at Hope Springs Farm, a day program for adults with intellectual disabilities. I am writing to give my support to House Bill 1438 seeking to create a state board of professional music therapy licensure that will recognize the MT-BC (music therapist - board certified) national credential in Pennsylvania.

The people who attend Hope Springs Farm have received group music therapy services for almost 4 years. They look forward to the sessions, and often ask about when the next music therapy session is scheduled. They have developed relationships with the music therapists. Music therapy has helped them express themselves, and it has taught them skills such as patience, self-control, and team work. Listening to them singing and laughing is amazing, because they sound so happy, upbeat, and confident. Music therapy is a meaningful part of their therapeutic services at Hope Springs Farm. The group sessions have been so beneficial that we have tried referring someone for individual music therapy. This individual has waiver funding but due to music therapy not being a licensed profession in PA, he cannot access the service through these funds. Music Therapy is such a beneficial and therapeutic service. If waiver funding paid for the music therapy services, we could refer so many people to individual music therapy which would supplement their group therapy sessions. It would greatly increase their support with expressing their emotions, coping with anxiety and anger, developing more patience, and learning self-control techniques. These skills would help them in their personal lives and relationships, work relationships, and relationships with the people they interact with in the community when they participate in volunteer and recreational activities. Music Therapy is extremely beneficial towards providing people with meaningful and well-rounded lives.

Please support efforts to establish a state board of professional music therapy licensure by voting "yes" on House Bill 1438.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Wommer
Hope Springs Farm
201 Trail Road
Hershey, PA 17033
717-298-1845

Mon 3/14/2016 4:41 PM

Madame Chair Harhart and members of the Pennsylvania House Licensure Committee:

My name is Megan Zulauf and I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working in Pennsylvania. I work with over 150 older adults in Allegheny County as a full time music therapist at Masonic Village in Sewickley and by providing contract music therapy services to residents of Canterbury Place, Sunrise McCandless and Holy Family Manor. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) defines music therapy as “the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program” (AMTA, www.musictherapy.org).

Due to lack of music therapy licensure in Pennsylvania I’ve seen nursing homes falsely claim they have music therapy for their residents in marketing resources and on recreation calendars. This can be harmful to residents, especially those with dementia, as volunteers or non-credentialed persons practicing music therapy lack the clinical education that is required of board certified music therapists.

A state licensure will provide an employer with personnel who are trained, equipped, and held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and who demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activities.

I urge you to support HB 1438 to provide for a music therapy licensure board and protect the consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Megan Zulauf

Megan Zulauf, MT-BC
16 Norwich Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
mzulauf2@masonicvillagespa.org