

July 31, 2023

Hon. Frank Burns
332 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202072
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2072

Via email to Kari L. Orchard at KOrchard@pahouse.net

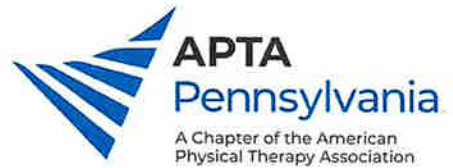
Re: House Bill 1356, Printer's No. 1501

Dear Chairman Burns:

As President of the American Physical Therapy Association - Pennsylvania ("APTA-PA"), a professional association representing over 3,000 physical therapists and physical therapist assistance in the Commonwealth, I ask that you please allow this letter to serve as APTA-PA's testimony regarding House Bill 1356, Printer's No. 1501 ("HB 1356") and to include this letter as part of the official record of the House Professional Licensure Committee ("Committee") public hearing of August 8, 2023. HB 1356 is of interest to APTA-PA and its members relative to the scope of services proposed to be provided by a licensed professional music therapist.

APTA-PA's primary concern with HB 1356 relates to the definition of "practice of music therapy" and, more specifically, the exclusions from the term. APTA-PA believes that the exclusionary language should be amended to further clarify additional actions that fall outside of the defined term, specifically expressly excluding "the screening, diagnosis, *treatment*, or assessment of any physical, mental or communication disorder." APTA-PA believes the language should also be amended to specifically exclude the treatment of such disorders for which a license to practice physical therapy or another of the healing arts is required. The addition of such language would strengthen HB 1356 and it would more clearly describe, for the benefit of clients receiving music therapy and others, the scope of interventions provided by professional music therapists. This proposed language would also be more consistent with what APTA-PA understands to be the training and education of music therapists.


In summary, APTA-PA has limited concerns with HB 1356 which relate primarily to its belief that the legislation should better clarify those interventions which do not fall within the definition of "practice of music therapy" as currently set forth in the legislation. Should the Committee desire, APTA-PA would welcome the opportunity to work with members of the Committee, Representative Pashinski, and other parties of interest on possible amendments to the legislation to address APTA-PA's concerns. Please do



not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions regarding APTA-PA's position on HB 1356. On behalf of APTA-PA, we appreciate the ability to participate in the legislative process.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY
ASSOCIATION-PENNSYLVANIA

By:  P.T., DPT, MHS
Scott Voshell, PT, DPT, MHS, President