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Email to phtestimony@cga.ct.gov
Subject Line: In support of RSB 354

Members of the Public Health Committee

My name is Denise Mahoney and I am a concerned citizen from Stonington.

I am writing you to ask for your support of **Raised Senate Bill 354**, a bill that will create a music therapy license in Connecticut . This bill is important because it will allow Connecticut 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 note that my support of licensure for music therapy is dependent on some language changes which have been submitted as written testimony by Jennifer Sokira on behalf of the CT Task Force. These changes ensure that the license is reflective of current board certification requirements in music therapy and is not limiting to the practices of Board Certified Music Therapists currently in CT.

I have witnessed first hand how music therapy was instrumental in the recovery of a family member. In the first month's of recovery it was music therapy that began the use of speech at a very basic level. It was by learning to sing his name and sing the numbers 1-5 that allowed the long, long journey of the recovery of speech to begin. Unfortunately because this very necessary therapy is not a recognized therapy here in CT that insurance does not cover the cost and we were forced to suspend the therapy for financial reasons. Although the recovery continues, I believe we might be much further along with the addition of music therapy. The Psychiatrist has continued to recommend going back to music therapy whenever finances allow. It is a proven therapy and by licensing music therapists in CT it will (I believe) make it an accepted practice and insurance companies will cover it as they do with other important therapies like Speech, Physical, and Occupational. It is the missing link in the recovery process. If anyone has any questions of our personal experience or there is any way I can be of further help to insure this bill is passed please, please don't hesitate to contact me. For these reasons, I ask that you please vote "yes" on Raised Senate Bill 354!

Sincerely,
Denise Mahoney
860-405-4620