

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Dorothy Stapleton and I am a concerned citizen from Wolcott, Connecticut.

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 Connecticut.

I have been a Board Certified Music Therapist for more than 30 years and have seen the many changes that have occurred over time with clients who have received music therapy. The use of Music Therapy in a therapeutic manner has assisted young clients in learning basic daily living skills in a fun way through songs and movement. Over the years, I have witnessed music enable the expression of thoughts through music listening and song writing. In addition to improving their quality of life, music helps elderly clients with reality orientation to regain their identity by reminiscing through the songs that were meaningful to them in the past.

For these reasons, I ask that you please vote "yes" on Raised Senate Bill 354!

Sincerely,
Dorothy Stapleton, MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist

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