

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Douglas Johnson and I am a concerned citizen from Hartford, where I have resided and worked since 1988.

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.

As a board-certified music therapist, I work with young people, adults and older persons who are struggling with emotional, cognitive and physical impairments. I have encountered intractable obstacles to pursuing my work in our state, due to the absence of a professional licensure program for music therapists here.

For example, in the absence of a state licensure, I cannot offer my services to students and staff via referrals through the counseling center at Trinity College in Hartford. It is the established policy of the center only to make referrals to therapists who are licensed in the state. This is a clear double-bind. Even though the staff and director share a positive view of the benefits of music therapy, and would refer if they could, no music therapist could ever work in that context, for lack of a licensure in Connecticut.

In my private practice, I have had to turn away potential adult clients because they could not obtain even a partial insurance reimbursement for my services. Licensure for music therapists in Connecticut will be a very significant step forward for professionals in our field; the increased professional standing a licensure imparts will result in making music therapy services more available for residents of our state.

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

Sincerely,

Douglas Johnson
Ph.D.; MA-MT; MT-BC

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