

My name is James Rios and I am a concerned citizen from Shelton, CT.

I am writing tyou 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.

This bill is so important to me because Music Therapy has tremendously helped my wife who survived a stroke. Once a National Anthem Soloist performing for the Groton Sub base, before thousands at college graduation, prior to sporting events at the at the schools she attended (both Flood Middle School and Bunnell High School in Stratford) along with theUniversity of Rhode Island, as well as performing on civic holidays at veteran's halls and yacht clubs, she was no longer able to remember and sing the words. Because she has had Music Therapy, the words along with the music are coming back to her. She is starting to sing to her three small children as well as starting to feel comfortable singing in public again. No one should suffer a stroke and not be able to have therapy to regain what they have lost! Music Therapy is a therapy that is just as important as physical and occupational therapy. It helps to make connections in the brain that might not be otherwise possible.

For these reasons plus many, many more, I ask that you please vote "YES" on **Raised Senate Bill 354!** Feel free to contact me, I would be happy to share our experiences with Music Therapy.

Sincerely,
James Rios