

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is _Jodi Levine and I am a concerned citizen from Hamden, CT.

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 worked as a music therapist in Connecticut Nursing Homes since 1981. As a certified Music Therapist, with a Masters degree in the field, I have been able to make a difference in so many lives of elderly individuals dealing with a variety if illnesses, Including but not limited to those with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, CVA's, Cancer and a variety of other ailments. By adapting specifically designed use of music I have seen clients who could not talk, sing, could not walk, ambulate to the rthm of music, who could not remember their daughters name, but could sing every lyric to a song... Through the years I have seen people say they were music therapists but who only had a musical background with no training on how to use music as a vehicle in therapy which allows one to make specific changes in the lives of individuals in need. They would sheerly provide entertainment to their clients... which might bring joy to the listener but did not help elicit the changes needed to enhance the physical, emotional, or mental functioning needed by the individual.

By passing this bill the public would have the capability of knowing that they were hiring qualified individuals... Who are trained to use music as a tool to help make changes in the lives of their clients. For these reasons, I ask that you please vote “yes” on Raised Senate Bill 354 Sincerely,

Jodi Levine
8 Heather Rd
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 287-0334
Email: jodismusic57@gmail.com
Or: jlevine@churchhomes.org