

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Matthew Phillips, LCSW, MT-BC and I am a concerned citizen and board-certified music therapist from Stamford.

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 living and working in CT, I have the privilege of seeing the effectiveness of music therapy interventions on a regular basis. For my client with autism, the time we spend developing his piano skills provides him with an opportunity to rehearse social skills, develop hand-eye coordination and rehearse academic skills (attending, remaining seated, listening and following directions) within the time-ordered structure of music. The tempo of the music slows down and organizes his behavior, which can often be too fast, repetitive or chaotic. The unique skills and training of a music therapist are necessary to ensure that his needs are met safely and the work is done in a manner that supports his best interests and healthy development.

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

Sincerely,

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