

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Michelle Russell and I am a concerned citizen from West Hartford, 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 been a Board Certified Music Therapist for 15 years, the last 9 working in Connecticut. I have had the opportunity to work with children as young as 8 weeks of age as well as adults who have lived past their 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays. I have enjoyed my professional work immensely. I have worked hard to complete my education and my board certification. I work hard each year maintaining my board certification through required continuing education.

I highly support licensure for music therapists in the state of Connecticut. It is my hope that with licensure there is additional validation of what music therapists do as part of the educational or healthcare treatment team and alignment with professional practices in comparable professions.

I am proud of the work that my colleagues and I do.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Russell MA, MT-BC

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Michelle Russell MA, MT-BC

62 Griswold Drive

West Hartford, CT 06119

--

Musical Moments Music Therapy Services

Michelle K. Russell MA, MT-BC

Board Certified Music Therapist

(860) 878-4563

[www.mmmusictherapy.com](http://www.mmmusictherapy.com)