



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Public Health Committee
March 7, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 354 – AN ACT CONCERNING MUSIC AND ART THERAPY

Co-Chairs Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter; Vice Chairs Senator Crisco, Representative Riley; Ranking Members Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan; and esteemed members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 354 – An Act Concerning Music and Art Therapy.

This bill will create a license for music therapists in the State of Connecticut, therefore increasing access to quality music therapy services, while also providing client and consumer protection. This protection comes in the form of official and formal certification, ensuring the training meets standards established by national organizations. Music therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed a music therapy program approved by the American Music Therapy Association.

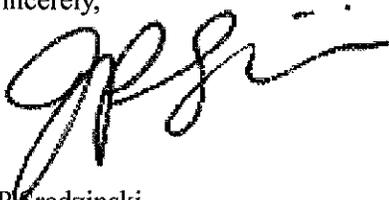
While music is universally recognized as a healing practice, the profession and discipline of Music therapy notes its history as an organized profession around World War II, when music was found helpful to veterans returning with “shell shock” now commonly known as post-traumatic stress disorder. Even as recent this past week, music therapy programs are expanding with our veterans today.

There are currently 90 Music therapists in Connecticut who are board certified, holding the MT-BC credential through the CBMT. Approximately 4500 individuals in our state receive music therapy services every year in a wide variety of settings including schools, geriatric and skilled nursing facilities, general medical and rehabilitation hospitals, rehabilitation, hospices, behavioral and mental health agencies, group homes, child development centers, outpatient clinics, private practices and other health and educational facilities. Some of our most vulnerable citizens, from premature babies in the neonatal intensive care unit, to children and adults who have been subjected to traumatic experiences, to children and adults with special needs and older adults with memory care needs are helped by music therapists every week.

This bill would provide protection to these consumers, our clients and future clients because it will recognize the already established standards for our professional practice, ensuring that non-qualified providers will not misrepresent their credentials or cause unintended harm. Furthermore, we support avenues which could increase their access qualified providers and services.

I urge you to support SB 354, An Act Concerning Music and Art Therapy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Sredzinski', written in a cursive style.

JP Sredzinski
State Representative – 112th District
Monroe • Newtown