

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Rebekah DeMieri and I am a concerned citizen from Stratford, 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 am a board-certified music therapist working full-time at a school for students with neurological impairments as well as in private practice. Within the school setting, I missed the opportunity for a career advancing promotion not because I lacked competence or skills but simply because I do not have a license. I have advocated on behalf of my students numerous times to encourage and ensure qualified, board-certified music therapists are hired to fill maternity leave and vacancies within the department. Finally and most concerning, I have had the experience working with a client who received services from an individual who claimed to be a music therapist. This claim was false and the individual did not have the education, clinical training, or board certification required.

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

Sincerely,
Rebekah DeMieri, MT-BC

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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