

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Sheri Stemmerman and I am a concerned citizen from Enfield.

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.

My husband suffered a massive stroke at the age of 39. He was unable to speak and move the right side of his body. After 6 weeks at a rehabilitation center, he was able to come home and could walk on his own. Communicating with him was extremely difficult as he knew what he wanted to say, but he could not get it out. We used the speech/occupational therapy/physical therapy at the outpatient facility. However, when things weren't working, I found a music therapist for him. This helped him tremendously and she was able to get him to sing, and eventually speak full sentences again! I wished that we could have been able to have more therapy sessions with her, as I think this was what helped the most. However, with the insurance not paying any of these bills, I was required to pay \$65 out of pocket a session, and we just couldn't afford anything more than once a week or every other week. We were suddenly a family with a 1 1/2 year old daughter that were living on my income and his disability payments, plus the amount of medical bills that I was paying were astronomical. We had to learn how to do the same with much less money, while still trying to get my husband the care that he needed. I don't wish that upon any other family. I wish that I was still able to have the music therapist come to our home and help him, as he still has more room for recovery.

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

Sincerely,  
Sheri Stemmerman