

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Robeta Blake and I am a concerned citizen from Branford, CT. I am a Board Certified Music Therapist and have worked at VA CT in West Haven for 23 years. I work with combat Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress and Veterans in Hospice and Palliative Care. Being a Music Therapist with these populations is not about singing songs to make people feel good, something any good willed people with the gift of music can provide. There is a place for these kinds of entertainment. But, these populations are extremely challenging and require an understanding of symptoms and knowledge of the music interventions that would be used to help each veteran's situation. This requires training and experience in Music Therapy. Although I work for the Federal Government, Music Therapy is expanding into State and private work with Veterans and families. There is certainly a risk in working with Veterans in Music Therapy if you are not trained and knowledgeable about the population and the interventions.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Roberta Blake