Your Name

Your Title, Your Workplace

Your Street Address

Your City/State/Zip Code

Date

Senator or Representative's Name

North Carolina General Assembly

Street Address (See ncleg.net)

City/State/Zip

Dear Senator or Representative's Name,

Thank you for something you like/appreciate about this legislator, what they support, especially something in healthcare or education. I am writing today to ask for your support of HB192 - Establish Music Therapy Practice Act.

As you may know, music therapy is an allied health profession recognized by the National Institutes of Health. Music therapy is research-based, and is used to address individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship. Music therapists are highly qualified professionals, completing at least a bachelor’s degree in music therapy from an accredited college or university, which includes 1200 clinical hours. Following this rigorous academic and clinical training, music therapists take the national examination administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT). Upon successful completion of this exam, the credential necessary for professional practice, Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC), is issued.

Currently, over 170 music therapists in North Carolina provide a variety of services in facilities such as nursing homes, schools, hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, hospices, group homes, and adult day programs. Additionally, many of your constituents likely benefit from music therapy services, as music therapists served over 5000 individuals in 54 counties in 2015.

Your personal experience with music therapy.

HB192 – Establish Music Therapy Practice Act aims to provide a state license for music therapists practicing in North Carolina. A state music therapy license would

* **Ensure broader access to services** – state licensed music therapists would meet industry standards (which currently require service providers to be “licensed professionals”), allowing citizens to use their insurance coverage instead of having to pay out-of-pocket;
* **Encourage job growth and development** – music therapists would in compliance with the many facilities and employers that require providers to submit license information when contracting services;
* **Provide quality assurance** – individuals providing music therapy would be required to meet national standards of education and clinical training; and
* **Prevent loss of intellectual capital to the state** – students and interns trained in North Carolina would be less likely to leave the state for job opportunities in states with music therapy licensure (data available upon request).

On behalf of the individual or group you represent, thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to email Jessica Newsome-Hoyle, chair of the North Carolina Music Therapy Task Force, if you need further information regarding music therapy licensure in North Carolina (ncmusictherapytaskforce@gmail.com).

Respectfully yours,

Your Name