

# Please Support HB 787 and SB 539

## Legislation to Study State Recognition of Music Therapy in Texas

### *What is Music Therapy?*

Music therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals for people of all ages and ability levels within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program.

*(Scope of Music Therapy Practice, 2015)*

***In other words, music therapists in Texas are skilled in understanding the relationship between music and the brain/body and using this knowledge to achieve functional outcomes for clients.***

Music therapists are independently certified through the Certification Board for Music Therapists after completing a bachelor's degree or higher from a music therapy degree program approved by the American Music Therapy Association, 1200 hours of clinical training, and passing a national board exam. A qualified music therapist will hold the credential "MT--BC."

### *What is HB 787 and SB 539?*

Companion Bill HB 787 filed by Representative Sarah Davis and SB 539 filed by Senator Nathan Johnson which will direct the Health and Human Services Commission to assemble an advisory council to study the need for state recognition of music therapists.

### *Why are we asking you to support HB 787 and SB 539?*

**State recognition has the potential to:**

- **Understand the need.** By appointing a committee to research and look carefully at music therapy practices in Texas, the legislature will have a better understanding of if and why state recognition is needed.
- **Protect consumers.** Ensures protection for the public by requiring individuals to meet national standards if individuals present themselves as music therapists.
- **Help Texans more easily access music therapy services.** States outline qualifications for employment and inclusion in state programs. Music therapy recognition will help ensure that Texas citizens have access to music therapy services by personnel who are trained, equipped, held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activity.
- **Facilitate inclusion in state regulations, which often require official state recognition.** In programs with state oversight such as special education, Medicaid waiver funding, and even private insurance, regulations often require a form of official "state recognition" of a credential in order to support professional services.
- **Avoid confusion** — Official state recognition of the MT-BC credential will help healthcare facilities (which rely upon state regulations) address the confusion regarding the difference between music therapists, music practitioners, music thanatologists, and other non-music therapy musicians in healthcare.

***Questions? Please contact Kate Harrison at [txtaskforce14@gmail.com](mailto:txtaskforce14@gmail.com)***

For information about 60+ years of music therapy, please visit the American Music Therapy Association, [www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org) and the Certification Board for Music Therapists, [www.cbmt.org](http://www.cbmt.org)

*Thank you for your support of HB 787 and SB 539.*