

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2473

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: March 31, 2021 8:00 AM

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Kayla Minchew

self - music therapist

Midland, TX

I am a board-certified music therapist providing music therapy services to children and adults with autism, intellectual disabilities and mental health diagnosis in the Midland/Odessa area of Texas. I currently provide music therapy in a clinic-based facility for a non-profit organization. Music Therapy services are difficult to access because it is difficult to get reimbursement from the major third-party funders as music therapy is not a licensed profession in the state of Texas; even when coverage is available, third-party funders are only paying out-of-network benefits, which is still costly for the clients and families. Our music therapy program relies heavily on local grants to provide services to our community.

Another struggle for the Midland/Odessa area is the large amount of misrepresentation of music therapy in West Texas. Even as recently as last month a local organization for sex-trafficked victims was advertising they were providing “music therapy” and “piano therapy” to the victims they were supporting with a volunteer piano teacher. While music and piano lessons are likely beneficial for those victims, there are opportunities for instances of harm in the trauma setting if a qualified professional is not supporting those victims’ psychological and emotional health. In the last few years we have also had instances of misrepresentation of music therapy with a volunteer musician providing “music therapy” in the local hospital. Many opportunities for instances of harm were presented; music therapists working in the medical setting are trained to monitor vitals and select music and instruments that will be least aversive to the patients receiving music therapy. Thankfully the volunteer coordinator contacted the local music therapist to seek advice for the music program at the hospital and the volunteer musician was moved to the lobby area where hospital staff and visitors would enjoy a show.

Lastly, title protection is extremely important to me and the music therapists in West Texas. Many of the counselors in this area specialize in areas of counseling such as Play Therapy. Unfortunately, the counselors who are musicians decide to call their practices “music therapy.” Again, while music in the counseling sessions are beneficial, counselors are not trained musicians and are not trained in the therapeutic process of using music in their sessions. While there are only a handful of music therapists in West Texas, we are proud advocates of music therapy and try to be quick to inform the professionals misrepresenting themselves. However, because we do not have title protection, that task is difficult.

I am asking for support for HB 2473 for music therapy licensure to ensure access to services, prevent instances of harm and provide title protection for music therapists. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joseph Wozny

Self (Work in Neuro Rehab Research)

Houston, TX

As a public health professional working with stroke patients, we support the use of multidisciplinary services. However, we know how payers can be when considering therapies they're not familiar with or used to. They focus on business as usual. We think the research on music therapy shows promise and think that part of getting it recognized and incorporated at more places is having formal licensure and fees. People are often ignorant of the promise and therapeutic benefit of art therapies, and establishing professional standards helps bring the credibility music therapy deserves into the conversation.

Brittany Trinite

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self/Music Therapist

Austin, TX

I am a Board Certified Music Therapist. HB 2473 supports music therapists and their clients by further defining the role of a music therapist in treatment planning and including music therapists as licensed medical professionals in the state of Texas. This protection clarifies the role of music therapists to other members of treatment teams, caregivers, and provides more support for collaborations and novel ways to fully benefit from music therapy. Client populations that would benefit from accessibility to music therapy in health care range from infants up to adults in settings ranging from preschools and NICU to memory care facilities and rehabilitation facilities. Licensure of music therapists further supports unifying the credential on a national level. By including music therapists in the professionals that are medically licensed to practice, this protects the professionals and their clients in terms of accountability, equity, and high quality service delivery. Making music therapy more widely understood, supported, and accessible is a priority to me, as a music therapist.

Della Molloy-Daugherty, Ph.D.

American Music Therapy Association, Southwest Region

Denton, TX

I am in favor of this bill. The Texas Psychology Association, who is in opposition to this bill, actually makes a very good point: they are in opposition to this bill because they are concerned that music therapists "treat mental health conditions without proper education and training". This is precisely why the state needs this bill to pass. Music therapists MUST be held accountable to their credentials, their board certification, and must practice within their scope of practice. Right now, anyone in Texas can say they are a music therapist and not be held accountable. So, yes, in theory, someone could be "treating mental health conditions without proper education and training" and calling it music therapy. Licensure of Board Certified Music Therapists will actually ENSURE that ANYONE who is APPROVED to practice music therapy in the state provides appropriate services, REMAINING within their scope of practice, being held to their code of ethics, and if someone is found in violation, would lose their license. We need state licensure to keep music therapists accountable and to prevent potential harm to consumers and to prevent misrepresentation of who is appropriately qualified to be called a Music Therapist.

Olivia Rogers

VNA of Texas

McKinney, TX

I am writing in support of music therapists being licensed in the State of Texas. As the Chief Nursing Officer of a Hospice, I can attest to the value of music therapy for end of life and serious illness patients in aiding in symptom management and providing enhanced quality of life. Our music therapists have college degrees in music therapy, over 1200 clinical hours accrued before before they can take the board exam, and after that need CEUs in order to maintain credentials. This is no different from many other licensed medical staff in Texas. Supporting this effort would mean that only true licensed professionals would be able to call themselves music therapists, as they alone have the training to support patients in this way. Thank you.

Erica Stanley, LCSW

self -licensed clinical social worker

Wylie, TX

I have worked in a child abuse organization for over 15 years with a Music Therapist, and I 100% support Music Therapists being recognized by the state of Texas as a licensed mental health professional. I have seen firsthand how she has helped hundreds of children and families heal from the trauma of abuse. I think that the state of Texas should license and regulate the practice of Music Therapy, just as social workers and therapists are licensed. The profession of Music Therapy has a lot to contribute to the mental health community and should be identified as equally qualified to practice therapy and other clinical services in Texas.

Angi Gibson, Director of Clinical Services

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Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County

Plano, TX

I work for an agency that provides trauma informed therapy to victims of abuse and neglect and have worked along side a music therapist for many years. Research continues to demonstrate the impact of childhood trauma on physical and emotional development, health, and well-being. Music therapy provides a valuable intervention in working with trauma and is in line with the increasing body of knowledge regarding the impact of trauma on neuro-biology. There are many children in our state that have experienced trauma and are in need of therapeutic services to help mitigate the impact of the trauma, and there are many adults in our state that have experienced childhood trauma for which they received no assistance and with which they continue to struggle with emotionally, physically, and cognitively. Music therapy is a valuable tool in the fight against the long term impact of trauma, abuse, and neglect.

Karen Ewing, LPC

Self

McKinney, TX

As a Licensed Professional Counselor, I have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside a Music Therapist in our clinical setting and have several friends who also are Music Therapists. The Music Therapists are a vital part of therapy and offer a unique option and process of helping the healing process for clients. I believe strongly that we should have a licensure of Music Therapists in the State of Texas, in order to have them held to a standard of ethics and regulation that I have as a Licensed Professional Counselor. I urge you to vote for FOR or YES for this bill. Thank you!

Noah Tennefrancia

Recovery Adovacy Project (RAP)

Austin, TX

I definitely agree that musical practices and therapy, especially towards mental wellness and improvements should be processed and included through insurances weather private or state (Medicaid or Medicare). Coming from Austin, Texas, the "live music capital" of the world, the music is the very fabric makes this city develop and grow. It should be even more focused on and available towards any musicians, producers, event coordinators, etc, especially when these specific individuals makes impacts towards the music of our city.

Erica Mosley, Senior Patient Coordinator

Houston Methodist Hospital

Stafford, TX

I believe music heals the soul. There's many different aspects to music that even I, as a lover of music, didn't realize existed until I was able to see and hear the work of a music therapist. There's so many ways that music is essential to healing. It allows users to express themselves in ways they didn't know were possible and reveals things they may have otherwise not recognized. Music inclusion & accessibility should be made more readily available to everyone especially those struggling with any illness or ailment as apart of their treatment plan. Therefore I support measures that allow persons interested in this line of work to gain the licensure required in order to provide their service to those in need.

James Flack

HMH PO

Houston, TX

I am a licensed Psychiatrist since 1990 in Texas and have spent the majority of my career at Houston Methodist Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, and The Menninger Clinic. I have worked the last 10 years with Music Therapists as essential members of the care team in providing mental health care for our psychiatric patients. They have become vital team members helping patients

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with music lists for songs that help them manage emotion states in a healthier manner with less anxiety and additional regulation strategies, reaching emotional connections with others to help with a chronic sense of disconnections to others, enhance their sense of their own emotional states and inner selves, engaging their affect in a healthier way without drugs or alcohol, connecting with healthier stages and memories of their lives, and exploring their own humanity. I fully support the additional services of Music Therapy to managing patients in a multidisciplinary manner.

Jim Flack MD, Deputy Chair of Psychiatry, Houston Methodist Hospital

kalee gower

Self, licensed clinical social worker

Austin, TX

I am a clinical social worker and regularly collaborate with other health and mental health professionals in my role as a psychotherapist. I support this bill as it would ensure clients are receiving services from licensed professionals. I regularly hear stories from clients about the difficulty in discerning which professionals to seek help from and which professionals are legitimate. This would be a step in the right direction. In addition, more and more people are wanting a multi pronged approach to their treatment after unsuccessful or incomplete results from standard treatment. Music therapy is a type of therapy that can have a tremendous impact when done by trained a licensed professionals, and one that I support. Thank you.

Jodi Lowther, PhD

Brainstorm Learning

Arlington, TX

Agreex

Lainie Allen, Reverend

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dallas, TX

I strongly support this bill!

Nora Brandon

Private

New Braunfels, TX

I support hb2473 .

Janeth Peterson

Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County

Plano, TX

I have worked at advocacy centers for the last 10 years. I've seen the impact our music therapy program has on children who have been affected by abuse and neglect. Like any other therapy treatment, not all models work the same. Some children do well playing with sand as they start to open up about their abuse. Others need a group setting or being outside. However, music is a critical component of a child's life, especially in adolescents. Music allows children to express who they are, what they are feeling, but most importantly, it gives children the space to heal from their trauma. I strongly encourage you to pass this bill so that music therapists across the nation can continue to help our children heal and build coping skills through music.

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LYNNE McLean

self

Dallas, TX

As a social worker who has worked in the field of child abuse for 40 years, I have seen the great benefits of music therapy with children who have experienced trauma multiple times. I wholeheartedly support this bill providing licensure for Music Therapists. I believe it would be highly beneficial for clients needing this service to have access to Music Therapists that are licensed and have oversight.

Ingrid Moeller

Music Therapists in the state of Texas

Bellaire, TX

Good morning. Please consider the following writing testimony in support of HB 2473.

As an allied health professional, recognized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), music therapists must earn a bachelor's degree or higher in music therapy from one of over 80 American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) approved colleges and universities which includes 1,200 hours of clinical training. At the completion of academic and clinical training, students are eligible to take the national examination administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT), an independent, non-profit certifying agency fully accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. After successful completion of the CBMT examination, graduates are issued the credential necessary for professional practice, Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC). Music therapists must complete 100 continuing education credits every 5 years to maintain their practice requirements.

We understand the importance of obtaining official state recognition in order to increase access to services for the citizens of our state and safeguard Texans from those not clinically qualified to practice music therapy. Unfortunately, harm can occur when musicians and others without a music therapy degree from an AMTA approved program and MT-BC credential attempt to provide services similar to what Board Certified Music Therapists are qualified to deliver. Music Therapists are required to take course work in counseling as well as anatomy and biology. We work within a strict scope of practice in order to prevent harm. This means that we are aware of the harm that music associated with "using" can do to a recovering addict in a treatment facility, and we safeguard against this before providing services. This means that we are aware of the harm that can occur in a NICU when music is provided without the accompanying knowledge needed to constantly read the medical monitors for the effect of the music on the vulnerable infants. This means that when we provide services in nursing homes and care facilities, we are aware that some music can increase anxiety and as well as aggression, that these instances can occur suddenly, and we are knowledgeable about how to change the music itself to decrease heart rate and therefore decrease tension. We also understand that it is vital that we work within a partnership with other care professionals, even more ideally, on a treatment team. This means that the potential for harm is decreased even further.

Licensure in addition to our Board Certification credential means that we are able to provide qualified, informed, evidence-based treatment to more individuals within the state of Texas, because it protects our professional title. Therefore, and more importantly, your constituents are protected from those not qualified to practice music therapy. Please consider all of the benefits to your constituents that this Bill will provide.

Kathryn Feldhaus

Self

Melissa, TX

Music therapist bring an alternative way for people to engage in therapy while expressing themselves. Allowing music therapist to be Board certified would be opening up therapeutic interventions to so many people and allowing them to use music to heal!

Angela Owens, Physical Therapist

Music Therapy - Physical therapist

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Pearland, TX

I am in support of Music Therapists becoming licensed professionals.

Lauren Braun

CAC Collin County

Plano, TX

In my realm of professional influence, I believe a music therapist brings a unique approach to healing and freedom from traumatic experiences of my clients. The music therapists I interact with bring valuable aspects to healing as they present opportunities to clients that vary from talk therapy, and that allow the client to engage in creative measures to tap further into healing. While some may think music therapy is strictly the use of an instrument, it's vital to under the musical instruments that are ourselves and our bodies; in the tone we take and the volume in which we speak, can present different levels to the emotion and feelings of an individual.

Abraham Ludwig

Self music therapist at veterans administration

LEANDER, TX

Please support our field here in Texas so that we may Thrive and grow as a field, supporting special needs populations, supporting veterans, supporting the youth, and people with all needs. This bill would protect us from other people using our designation who are not qualified and certified. Thank you

Janice Lindstrom

Self - Music therapy professor

Dallas, TX

Board Certified Music Therapists help Texans with disabilities or illnesses achieve and recover physical, cognitive, communication, social, and emotional health and well-being at a fraction of the cost of pharmaceutical and other medical treatment. Please support this bill to protect clients from harm and increase access for this valuable service.

Ashley Lundquist

Houston Methodist Center For Performing Arts Medicine

Rosenberg, TX

I support the bill to license and regulate music therapists. As a music therapist myself, I believe this is extremely important to furthering our field and reaching more people in need with our services.

Andrea Morrow

Self

Conroe, TX

I, Andrea Morrow a music therapist in your community, support HB 2473 and request that you support this bill as well. Please vote yes for this bill!

Sincerely,  
Andrea

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Melissa Sandoval, Music Therapist  
MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital  
Stafford, TX

It is important that Music Therapists across the state of Texas have licensing and regulation, for the protection of our community, medically complex patients, and work-force. By approving this bill, you are recognizing that this protection and safety is a priority for our community. Showing that the importance of mental health and wellbeing are at the forefront of what we stand for in Texas.

Virginia Beauchamp Gray, Mrs.  
Self, Senior Music Therapist for Houston Methodist Hospital  
Houston, TX

Dear Representative Jarvis Johnson, I'm writing to ask your support for HB 2473 relating to the licensing and regulation of music therapist: requiring an occupation license and authorizing fees. I work with medically vulnerable and critically ill patients in the ICU's at Houston Methodist Hospital. Many people feel music is always safe and non invasive. However, music has the potential to harm and to help. For example: It increases blood flow in the brain, which is life threatening for a patient with an active brain bleed, however helpful for a stable patient recovering from a brain injury. Music changes heart rate and blood pressure, which can be dangerous for a critically ill patient who needs their vitals signs to remain in a specific range, and helpful when presented by an MT-BC who understands how to play music within the correct parameters to influence vital signs for the health of the patient. A board certified music therapist is trained to use music safely and therapeutically for a patient cognitive, bio-medical, neurologic, physiologic, and psycho-emotional health. Our hospital does not allow musician to play for our critically ill patient's because they are well aware of the possible contraindications. Many medical settings in your district do not have this knowledge. Please consider supporting HB 24573 to keep you constituents safe. Thank you very much, Virginia B. Gray

John Shirley, Mr.  
Texas Counseling Association  
Bastrop, TX

This bill will greatly enhance the alternatives available for delivery of mental health services for all Texans. There is a great need in so many counties of this state for increased, effective mental health services and this bill would provide another layer of support in meeting these needs. Please allow a reading for this bill! Thank you for your faithful service on behalf of the citizens of this great state! John Shirley

Julia Hadden, Dr.  
Self  
Houston, TX

Music therapists provide an integral contribution to the overall health and wellness of mental health patients. They allow a different look into some of their difficulties and allow for a different modality to gain insight into their concerns. Music therapist also help guide other mental health clinicians in a patient's overall care.

Jeffrey Head  
Self  
Porter, TX

Please advance and pass this legislation for the constituents of Texas, especially those with special needs and our veterans! -JJH

Kate Marder, LPC, ATR-BC  
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Self

Houston, TX

I support licensure for music therapists. They work with many client populations & it would benefit the organizations they serve, such as hospitals & nursing homes, to be able to bill insurance for their services. Also licensure would help ensure that non-music therapists don't provide music therapy.

Jennifer Townsend

Houston Methodist

Pearland, TX

As a Manager of the Creative Arts Therapies program at Houston Methodist Hospital and a board-certified music therapist I am writing to urge you to support HB 2473 and the licensing of Board Certified Music Therapists in Texas. The team that I work with is highly skilled and provides necessary treatments for patients on some of the highest acuity units in the hospital. Their training includes a bachelor' or master's degree in music therapy, 1200 hours of supervised clinical work, and the passing of a board certification exam. Music Therapy bachelor degrees require 124-149 credit hours, more than the traditional 120-hour bachelor degree. This is because the training of a music therapist includes a variety of psychology, anatomy and physiology, music training and music therapy courses. This rigorous training is necessary in order to provide sound treatment to patients.

Music therapy is a holistic treatment that assists with neurological, physiological and psychological recovery. One young man in our hospital required extensive lung strengthening to get his new lungs working properly. Our pulmonologist ordered music therapy because he knew that facilitated wind instrument playing can increase vital lung capacity. A woman in her 70s struggling with ICU delirium after bypass surgery received an order to reduce agitation and give the patient hope for recovery. A patient who was severely depressed and refusing all treatments was referred by psychiatry for music therapy. The music therapist was able to use research-based techniques to engage the patient in facilitated lyric analysis to gain insight into what was causing such intense emotions. We have dedicated music therapists on the cardiovascular ICU, surgical and liver ICU, Bone Marrow Transplant unit, COVID 19 ICU, and inpatient and outpatient psychiatry units, all receiving orders from physicians to provide treatment.

In any one of these cases described above a person without training in psychological processes and physiologic responses could have caused harm. The patient recovering from a double lung transplant could have had heightened levels of CO2 without the music therapy facilitating diaphragmatic breathing. The woman with delirium could have become more agitated and even combative if the therapist did not understand the use of music for entrainment and proper techniques for de-escalation. And the man with depression could have spiraled further into his depressed state leading to medical demise. The board-certified music therapist is trained to provide appropriate assessment and treatment.

By licensing music therapists in Texas you will be providing safe and effective treatment to more Texans. You will be protecting them from potential harm that could be caused by untrained musicians hoping to make a positive difference in someone's life. Finally, you could be the key to patients being able to access a service that can affect their medical recovery, emotional journey and overall wellbeing.

Micah Salinas

Public Health & Music Therapy

Humble, TX

I am in full support of the Licensure of Music Therapists. Music therapy can save lives and absolutely contributes to to wellness of individuals mental health! Music therapy is a core practice in my everyday life and it should continue to help save lives everywhere.

Charles Seaman

Self- music therapist

Cypress, TX

I am in full support of this Bill. As a practicing music therapist I have seen the harm that can come from someone who is unlicensed and un educated in the field of music therapy

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Jackson Hearn

self, musician

Houston, TX

I certainly support this. Anyone serving as a therapist needs to be duly licensed by the state. Music therapists also need State licensure which provides them with legal protections which protect the public from folks who have not gone through the rigorous training that it takes to become a music therapist.

It also moves the needle in helping our clients receive reimbursement through their insurance.

Marial Biard

Texas Children's Hospital

Houston, TX

Hello, my name is Marial Biard, MT-BC, NMT-F and I am a pediatric medical music therapist at Texas Children's Hospital. In my role I utilize music as a tool to facilitate development, rehabilitation, pain-management, and coping/ positive emotional expression in a very scary and intense setting. Due to my training in an accredited music therapy degree program and further certification in brain injury rehabilitation I have the knowledge and skill set necessary to provide specifically designed music therapy techniques that foster rapid rewiring of neural networks and optimally prime the brain to heal and complete gross motor, fine motor, speech, and cognitive tasks.

Of the several techniques and interventions music therapists utilize on a daily basis the best example I can provide to demonstrate the necessity and importance of music therapy comes in the form of an 11-year-old female. A previously healthy and happy child she suffered a severe and traumatic brain injury after being ejected from the vehicle when a drunk driver struck her parent's car. My status as a board certified music therapist made it possible for me to meet this child when she was still intubated and sedated. Providing techniques known as Music Sensory Orientation Training and Auditory Perceptive Training. I was able to positively stimulate her brain and display subcortical awareness to the medical team when deeming whether or not this child should be weaned from sedation; once she was weaned music therapy then helped the child maintain a level of calm during imersion from sedation and new wakefulness by singing her name and providing familiar sensory stimulation in the forms of her favorite songs (Frozen and Moana).

As the patient progressed in her medical recovery so did the demand of interventions taking place in her music therapy sessions. We realigned her treatment from focusing on pain management and increased moments of purposeful responsiveness to focusing on maintaining attention utilizing Music Attention Control Training. We brought awareness to her hemi-paretic upper and lower left extremities by using hand over hand assistance to play the drums and strum the guitar allowing Therapeutic Instrumental Music Performance to enhance the awareness of her injured left side while keeping her in a positive mood and motivated to work hard during her sessions.

When it was time for Physical and Occupational Therapy, music remained present helping address and target additional gross motor goals such as sitting independently and learning to stand and walk again using Pattern Sensory Enhancement an Rhythmic Auditory Stimulation. It is with great pride I am able to tell you that she is now integrated back into her school and is continuing to heal and grow stronger every day. It is my firm belief that this child's rehabilitative process would have been significantly hindered and delayed if music therapy had not been a constant presence in her rehabilitation. Please support HB 2473!

Marial Biard, MT-BC

Self, Music Therapist

Houston, TX

Thank you for taking the time and putting forth the effort to learn more about the field of music therapy and how it is making significant positive impact in the lives of individuals across the great state of Texas. I am a pediatric medical music therapist, trained in Neurologic Music Therapy, who has the honor of serving and helping heal patients whose lives have changed forever because of hospitalization and illness. Due to my training in an accredited music therapy degree program and further certification in brain injury rehabilitation I have the knowledge and skill set necessary to provide specifically designed music therapy techniques that foster rapid rewiring of neural networks and optimally prime the brain to heal and complete gross motor, fine

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motor, speech, and cognitive tasks. The manipulation of the brain's predisposed disposition to be bilaterally activated by sound (thusly music) helps in creating success in tasks patients were not displaying prior to treatment. All of these important factors played a role in the motor and speech rehabilitation of an 18 yo male patient who experienced a stroke on the football field. It is with great pride I am able to tell you that he is now integrated back into his school and is continuing to heal and grow stronger every day. It is my firm belief that this child's rehabilitative process would have been significantly hindered and delayed if music therapy had not been a constant presence in his rehabilitation.

As a constituent of Rep. Ann Johnson (HB 2473) who presides over the Texas Medical Center I know she would agree one hundred percent with Dr. Arezzo who states, "The degree to which function can be recovered is phenomenal and we are just tapping into the extent that we can get recovery following stroke or brain injury or disease. " Please, help us "tap into" this incredible modality for healing traumatic brain injury. I urge you to reflect not only on the life of the child mentioned above, but of every Texan who has incurred a traumatic brain injury when you discuss opportunities for future study and advancement of treatment for those affected by Traumatic Brain Injury.

If you ever want to know more about the Neurologic Music Therapy techniques mentioned above or gain access to articles and substantial research accrediting the benefit of music therapy please do not hesitate to reach out. I would love to continue this conversation.

Best, Marial Biard

Todd Frazier

Houston Methodist Hospital

Houston, TX

As Director of the Center for Performing Arts Medicine at the Houston Methodist Hospital System, where we've become one of the largest and most comprehensive music therapy programs in the world, with 12 music therapists employed, I see the value, clinically and holistically, of this unique service on a daily basis - and have appreciated its increased demand during the COVID crisis.

It is one of the only services in a hospital that can serve employees, patients and family members from the emotional and spiritual side all the way to the neurologic rehabilitation side, and all areas in between, with equal effectiveness in achieving patient clinical and emotional goals.

The extensive internship training as part of their education, which is solidly based in science and evidence, prepares them well for the clinical setting and it is a welcomed opportunity to expand the career opportunities for artists considering how they would like to serve.

Furthermore, as medicine in general is experiencing a reaction to the specialization and isolation that has occurred in the approach to care over the past decades, music therapy is a welcomed addition to moving the pendulum of care to a more patient centered and humanistic environment.

Currently, philanthropy covers most of the expenses associated with music therapy, but because it is a service that has proven to be valuable to a care team and as a resource for a hospital that desires to have comprehensive services, the additional licensing of music therapists would help justify reimbursements from insurance companies, thereby diversifying and safeguarding the support for them, and be a valuable addition to the growth and acceptance of the field in a broader way across the state.

Thank you for your consideration, Todd Frazier