

Senate Health & Human Services  
 05/02/2022 01:30 PM  
 HB22-1399 Music Therapist Title Protection  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Rebekah Stewart For Self	<p>Thank you Madam Chair, members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Rebekah Stewart and I have been a board-certified music therapist with a nonprofit practice in the community serving children and adults with both developmental and neurological differences for the past 9 years. I am also the co-director of our internship program, providing the 1,000+ supervised clinical hours needed for new professionals to sit for their board-certification exam. Our work includes medicaid-waiver covered services for individuals with IDD, and I also have the privilege of working with individuals with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, and stroke and brain injury survivors. I have been the therapist in the hospital room who was able to support and facilitate someone's very first words following a stroke by singing a familiar song with them. Many people who lose their ability to speak words due to a stroke can still sing words because of the differentiated neural pathways of singing vs. speaking, and my job is to use music as a tool to help exercise new pathways in the brain so people can gain back some communication in those cases. This is just one example of what a highly skilled profession music therapy is; we work with some of the most vulnerable populations in Colorado, but are often one of the only professionals in those spaces who have no credential recognition or regulation by the state. We need to ensure that every stroke survivor who needs it is getting access to a trained, skilled, and credentialed professional when they are told "the music therapist is coming to see you." We owe them that because they deserve the chance to speak again. Thank you.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Rebekah Stewart, MA, MT-BC                      Certified Neurologic Music Therapist                      Rehabilitative Rhythms Music Therapy</p>