



The Certification Board for Music Therapists

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Dear Member of Congress:

The Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) is proud to serve as a **National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2010**. Representing over 4,900 music therapists that are board certified and hold the MT-BC credential, CBMT is the only organization to certify music therapists to practice music therapy nationally. Our mission is to define the body of knowledge that represents competent practice in the profession of music therapy and to act as the premier indicator of quality assurance for those accessing music therapy services. As an accredited program of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) we maintain the highest standards possible in the construction and administration of our national examination and recertification program, ultimately designed to reflect competence in current music therapy practice for the protection and benefit of the consumer.

For more than 60 years, music therapists have served patients and their families, utilizing music to address non-music goals in all developmental domains regardless of age or ability level. The growing research-base indicates that music therapy is a non-invasive, cost-effective means for treating a variety of conditions and illnesses as well as promoting health and wellness through preventative care. In essence, music therapy is both science and art and provides a livable-wage job opportunity that serves multiple needs in the community.

With an increased concern of cost effective treatment options that meet the diverse needs of patients, the support of music therapy and other creative arts in healthcare programs could have a beneficial impact on our nation. In order to continue the growth and development of the creative arts as a viable solution to address issues in both healthcare and education, we request your support of the following:

- Create a plan of action for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study that assesses the current status of federal support of creative arts therapies and other arts in healthcare programs to improve the quality of healthcare services.
- Allocate research funding to increase access to creative arts therapies and other arts in healthcare programs addressing older Americans, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, autism and others through federal health programs.
- Support arts programs that help close the achievement gap for students who are under served and demonstrate success in learning through their participation in the arts.
- Support programs and funding that will minimize job-loss in arts-related professions and fields.
- Appropriate \$53 million for the Arts in Education programs in the FY 2011 Labor-HHS Education appropriations bill.

Thank you for your support of these and other Arts programs in America. Your vision to create and preserve programs and services that enhance the quality of life for persons with illnesses and disabilities is one that positively affects and supports all Americans.

Sincerely,

Joy Schneck, MM, MT-BC
Executive Director

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Regulatory Affairs Advisor