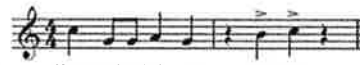


**Testimony for HB 2796  
OR Health Care Committee  
February 4, 2015  
Laura E. Beer, PhD, MT-BC, ACMT**

Thank you Chair Greenlick and thank you committee members, for this opportunity to testify. I am Laura Beer, resident of District 20, President of the Oregon Association for Music Therapy, and Program Director for Music Therapy at Marylhurst University. Today I represent the educators, clinical supervisors, and students for Marylhurst and Pacific Universities' music therapy training programs, many of whom are in the gallery today.

Music therapy is an art and it is a science. Our education reflects this: we are professional musicians and educated in neurology, anatomy, psychology, counseling, statistics, and research. We also undergo 1200 hours of intensive clinical training.

Last Fall over 50% of my new students moved to Oregon to attend the program. One of the questions most prospective students ask me is, "will I be able to get a job here?" The passing of this bill would help eliminate major economic hurdles for graduates, and allow me to say "the state of Oregon has work for you".



Music is a naturally organizing phenomenon. When I play Shave and a hair-cut  
two bits people come to attention, the rhythm is heard and felt. Music is powerful.

An example of this power is music therapy with premature infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units. The development of these babies is at great risk-- they are out of sync and in an environment full of the constant noise of voices, alarms, and machines. Definitive research shows that one session of music therapy can set a premature infant on a positive and growth oriented developmental path. You may ask, how many music therapists are working with premature infants in Oregon? The answer is not one. There is no reimbursement line.

We need your help to create jobs and bring our services to children, teens, and adults with needs.

Thank you Chair Greenlick and committee members.