

TO: The Oregon House Health Care Committee
FR: Larry Conner MA LPC, COPACT Government Relations Chair
DA: March 27, 2015
RE: Support for HB 2796



Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

The Coalition of Oregon Professional Associations of Counseling and Therapy (COPACT) represents Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) across Oregon. **I am writing today in support of HB 2796, which establishes a Board of Music Therapy and a licensure process for music therapists.**

Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists are highly trained Masters level mental health providers who offer psychotherapy services to individuals of all ages, families, couples, groups, and organizations throughout Oregon.

There are 4,500 LPCs, LMFTs and registered interns. We estimate that each week LPCs, LMFTs and registered interns work with over 70,000 Oregonians seeking services in mental health clinics, private practices, colleges, hospitals, prisons, and rehabilitation agencies.

COPACT supports music therapists in their attempt to create a licensing process and a licensure board. Music Therapists have well-developed national graduate school training standards and a national certification process. Music Therapists around the country provide music therapy to clients in clinical settings such as hospitals, rehabilitation agencies, chemical dependency treatment centers, nursing homes, and private practice. COPACT is in support of licensure and board oversight to ensure that consumers of music therapy have the confidence that the services they receive are ethically and clinically sound and that they have a place to go if they receive services that are unethical or destructive. A Board of Music Therapy and a licensure process gives consumers that confidence.

Please vote in favor of HB 2796 to create a Board of Music Therapy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2796, I ask your support for the bill and hope you will send it to the House Floor.