

Dear Members and Advocates,

The NYSTF continues to monitor the activities in NYS related to the implementation of the Mental Health Practitioners (MHP) law. At this time, there are **two crucial calls to action** at this time. The recent activity in Albany in the form of proposed amendments as well as legislative action on the law is very positive, providing clarification on some areas of concern while allowing more flexibility with the licensure process. The amendments address changes in regulation (requiring approval by the Board of Regents) while the bill addresses changes in law and, as such, requires legislative action.

Listed below is sample language to use for both the public comment period for the amendments on the State Register as well as when contacting your legislators to ask them to vote in favor of the bill. It is important to have the voices of practitioners heard along with employers, consumers, and other advocates. Please encourage people to submit their comments, personalizing them to their own position or situation.

Please send copies of your correspondence to us (nystf@aol.com) as well as to Judy Simpson, AMTA Director of Government Relations (simpson@musictherapy.org) so we can track our activity in this effort.

We hope this information is helpful. We remain vigilant in monitoring activity in Albany and maintaining contact with associates there, and encourage you to continue to contact us with your questions and concerns.

In the spirit of service,
The New York State Task Force on Occupational Regulation

SAMPLE MESSAGE FOR 45-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS. REVIEW THE COMPLETE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AT: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/mhp-2010proposed.htm>

Please personalize as indicated by the ***bold italicized*** sections.

PLEASE NOTE: THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD BEGAN WEDNESDAY, 3/31/2010, AND CONCLUDES ON MAY 15, 2010.

Dear Deputy Commissioner Munoz, and
Dr. David Hamilton, Executive Secretary, State Board for Mental Health Practitioners;

I am writing today in strong support of the proposed amendments to Subparts 79-9, 79-10, 79-11, and 79-12 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as they relate to the licensure of mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, creative arts therapists, and psychoanalysts. In particular, as a ***[music therapist LCAT] OR [music therapist and future candidate for the LCAT]***, these amendments related to supervised experience, limited permits, and acceptable settings will efficiently address many of the unintended consequences of the Mental Health Practitioners law and result in

and/or FACILITY).

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS

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To find your Senate and Assembly Representatives and their respective emails or mailing addresses, please use the following links.

ASSEMBLY:

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/>

SENATE:

<http://www.nysenate.gov/>