



Senate Bill 238

February 13, 2020

Dear Chairman McColley and the members of the Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of Senate Bill 238.

My name is Meri Skiera and I serve as the Director of Programs and Services at Ronald McDonald House® Akron. In conjunction with our partner hospital we have been able to provide various art and music therapy sessions to our guests.

Art and music therapy events are a favorite of our families. These events provide our families:

- A sense of accomplishment by completing a project
- The comfort of others within the group setting
- Peace and calm by distracting their stressed minds
- Involvement by caretakers allowing them to create something special for their sick child
- Attention for siblings by participating in something for themselves
- Distraction for out-patients that are staying with us (often long-term)

This is just some of the feedback we have received over the years. We see resources such as art and music therapy as an important piece in helping to support the philosophy of Family-Centered Care. Our current budget does not allow us to have in-house staff to provide these services. Licensure would be beneficial by providing the confidence that the provider has been properly trained allowing us to offer sessions more frequently. Due to the stressful and sensitive situations our families are dealing with it is important that these services are provided by trained professionals.

Art and music therapies help us support the physical, emotional, and social needs of families with a hospitalized child. We support Senate Bill 328.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meri Skiera".

Meri Skiera
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