Children's MINNESOTA

The Kid Experts™

March 17, 2026
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing in support of SF2975, which would establish state licensure for board-certified music therapists in Minnesota.

Children's Minnesota is the state's largest pediatric healthcare system, seeing more than 170,000 kids each year. Nearly fifty percent of the patients we see receive services covered by Medicaid. Our music therapists are a critical part of our care teams.

In 2025 Children's Minnesota music therapists delivered 4,000 sessions, supporting patients receiving mental health services, patients receiving care on our medical/surgical units, and patients being cared for in all of our intensive care units. These professionals help our young patients cope with the hospital environment, support end-of-life care, and help to decrease isolation by giving patients and families an opportunity to express themselves through music. This work continues to support positive health outcomes, especially for our tiniest patients. Specific evidenced-based music therapy interventions, including Multimodal Neurologic Enhancement and the Pacifier Activated Lullaby system, are being implemented by music therapists in our NICUs and have been found to decrease length of stay, decrease readmission rates, increase tolerance to stimuli, and increase tolerance to feeding.

Music therapy is an evidence-based clinical profession that plays a vital role in healthcare. State licensure for music therapists would provide clarity for employers, case managers and other decision makers who rely on state regulations to determine documentation and billing processes for health care services. This clarity would help to avoid financial or programmatic barriers that would impact access to care.

SF2975 will help ensure that Minnesotans have access to and benefit from the incredible services music therapists provide. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Amanda Jansen, MPP
Director of Public Policy
Children's Minnesota