ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN

I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim
April 2018

MUSIC THERAPY MONTH

WHEREAS, Music Therapy is the skillful use of music and musical elements by an Accredited Music Therapist to promote, maintain, and restore mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health; and,

WHEREAS, music has nonverbal, creative, structural, and emotional qualities that are used in the therapeutic relationship to facilitate contact, interaction, self-awareness, learning, self-expression, communication, and personal development; and,

WHEREAS, Music Therapists have strict standards of assessment and therapeutic techniques, provide clinical documentation and implement peer review for professional quality assurance; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of the American Music Therapy Association and the Michigan Music Therapy Association promotes the education, training, professional standards, and research needed to support and advance the field of music therapy within a six-state area, which includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, representing 7,000 board-certified music therapists nationwide, the organizational mission of AMTA is to promote public knowledge of the field of music therapy and its benefits, as well as to increase access to quality music therapy services; and,

WHEREAS, the 18 universities degree programs in the GLR – including programs at both Western Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University – along with more than 29 clinical internship training sites, prepare upcoming music therapists to work with a variety of vulnerable client populations across the lifespan including premature infants and young children; individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities; oncology patients; those with mental health challenges; individuals undergoing physical rehabilitation; older adults diagnosed in all levels of care and living environments; and individuals in hospice care; and,

WHEREAS, Music Therapists are also active in community service and advocacy, and participate in the legislative process to validate the positive effects of music therapy; and,

WHEREAS, the GLR is home to approximately 1,100 board-certified music therapists, including 326 within Michigan, who strive to provide music therapy services for the purpose of restoring, maintaining and improving the mental, physical and social well-being of all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as Music Therapy Month in Michigan.

Rick Snyder
Governor