STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 30, 2013

The Honorable Andy Biggs
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1437 (music therapists; licensure)

Dear President Biggs,

Today, I vetoed Senate Bill 1437, which would have created a new state certification for music therapists. I understand and appreciate that state certification could increase access to music therapy services by enabling music therapists to practice in a greater number of healthcare facilities. However, in seeking this state certification, the legislation fails to grant even the most basic oversight authority to the state agency that is charged with issuing the certificates.

When the government regulates a profession by issuing certificates or licenses, there is an expectation from the public that the certificate holder or licensee is subject to a certain level of oversight. Under this proposal, the Department of Health Services is required to issue a state certification to music therapists but lacks the authority to revoke the certification or impose any penalty if the certificate holder violates the scope of practice. Further, there is no background check requirement despite the fact that music therapists often work with vulnerable children and adults.

Finally, I cannot sign legislation with so many undefined terms and ambiguous phrases that would have made it difficult to implement this bill. For example, the bill requires that an internship be approved by an "academic institution" but does not specify whether that means a university, community college, high school, or something else.

These concerns are among the primary reasons I have vetoed Senate Bill 1437.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Kelli Ward

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