

Submitter: Danielle Maveal  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3761

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 3761, which requires the Oregon Health Authority and coordinated care organizations to reimburse licensed art therapists, licensed certified art therapists, and provisionally licensed art therapists for behavioral health services under the state's medical assistance program.

As a graduate student in art therapy and a researcher working with an underrepresented population, I see firsthand how art therapy creates a space for healing, particularly for those who struggle to articulate their experiences through words alone. For many marginalized communities, traditional therapy models may not be accessible, culturally responsive, or effective in addressing their lived experiences. Art therapy provides an alternative—a nonverbal, strengths-based approach that allows individuals to process trauma, express emotions safely, and build self-efficacy. This bill is not just about reimbursement; it is about recognizing the necessity of diverse therapeutic modalities in truly meeting the mental health needs of Oregonians.

This bill is critical in expanding mental health access for Oregon's 1.4 million Medicaid recipients, addressing disparities in care for low-income and underserved communities. Art therapists bring a unique and evidence-based approach to mental health care, combining art and psychological theory to support individuals who may not fully engage with traditional talk therapy. The rigorous professional requirements for art therapists—including a master's degree, two years of supervised clinical practice, and board certification—place them on par with other licensed mental health providers. By recognizing art therapists as qualified mental health professionals, Oregon would join 13 other states in ensuring greater access to specialized, creative interventions that can reach people who might otherwise go without care.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this essential legislation.

With gratitude,  
Danielle Maveal