

Katie Dunn 3115 SE 78<sup>th</sup> Ave Portland OR 97206

3/16/2025

Re: HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

Dear Representative

I am writing to express my support of House Bill 3761. As a practicing art therapist for over 20 years and as a graduate art therapy program professor, I can report with confidence that art therapists' training is comparable to other mental health training with equivalent coursework, ethical practice, clinical supervision and passing a board certification exam. As the Oregon Licensed Certified Art Therapist license is relatively new, recognition of the license as billable by Medicaid has not yet been established. This restricts low-income and underserved community members' access to these essential services.

In addition to increasing accessibility to valuable mental health services, your support of House Bill 3761, will also help to reduce redundancy for new graduates and current art therapists who will no longer need to hold multiple license types to practice as an art therapist and to receive insurance reimbursement. It will also further streamline the process reducing administrative costs for the state licensing boards, Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon, Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, and Oregon Health Licensing Office, which all currently oversee similar aspects of licensing needed by art therapists in Oregon. House Bill 3761 will do this by establishing a supervised, provisional license for newly graduated master's level art therapists and bring all license levels under one licensing board (aligns with processes used by other behavioral health providers (professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and clinical social workers) in Oregon.

This legislation is important because it expands access to therapeutic mental health services for Oregonians and empowers a growing workforce of mental health professionals in a state that falls far behind the national average for equitable and accessible mental health care. Art therapists, including myself, provide trauma-informed care that enhances emotional resilience, supports healing, and improves mental health outcomes. I have witnessed countless children and families begin such healing journeys while working as an art therapist for a local children's hospital. Often art therapists are the only mental health providers in the medical hospital offering psychotherapy counseling. I can also attest that children and their families often have a difficult time finding comparable mental health services in their community due to the limitations brought about by a lack of insurance coverage.

By supporting HB 3761, you are reducing barriers for mental health professionals and increasing access to essential mental health care in Oregon.

I appreciate your time and vote to pass such an important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,  
Katie Dunn, LCAT, ATR-BC, ATCS