

Submitter: Kiersten Carroll

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3761

Letter of Support for Measure
Kiersten Carroll, Portland, OR
3/17/25

Re: HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

To: Oregon Legislative Representatives

I am writing to express my support of House Bill 3761. 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 communities access to these essential services.

Your support of House Bill 3761, will help to reduce redundancy for new graduates and current art therapists to 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. Art therapists provide trauma-informed care that enhances emotional resilience, supports healing, and improves mental health outcomes. By supporting HB 3761, you are reducing barriers for mental health professionals and increasing access to essential mental health care in Oregon.

I am a current Art Therapist in training at Lewis & Clark college, in my final semester prior to graduating and receiving my Master's Degree in Art Therapy. I am honored to

support this legislative movement that, if passed, would allow more individuals in need to receive the mental health support and treatment that they deserve. Art has been an extremely powerful component to my personal life and has caused me relief from suffering, has prompted my own emotional and personal growth, has provided a safe and healthy outlet of emotional expression throughout my life when I was not taught or allowed many forms of healthy expression growing up. To allow this legislature to pass means giving more people the opportunity to have access to high quality creative mental health care that has a multitude of benefits for the client, furthering creative expression being just one of them. The state of OR residents' mental health would significantly improve, should more individuals in need be provided the proper mental health care that they require to benefit themselves and the communities they reside within. I wholeheartedly believe in this legislative move, as I have experienced personal benefits from creativity throughout my life and since being a student in the professional Art Therapy mental health field, I have gained first-hand insight into the positive impacts art can have on a client as well. Please don't let this opportunity pass by, to encourage greater supports by way of mental health and Art Therapy treatments throughout the state of Oregon. As a native Oregonian, this is an important moment in history in which you may support and uplift a field (Art Therapy) that works only to provide care to those who need it and could benefit greatly.

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

Sincerely,

Kiersten Carroll
Art Therapist-in training
Student Intern
Lewis & Clark College