

March 17, 2025

Re: HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

Dear Representative,

I am writing to express my support of House Bill 3761 which requires the Oregon Health Authority and coordinated care organizations to provide reimbursement in the state's medical assistance program for the cost of behavioral health services provided by licensed art therapists, licensed certified art therapists and provisional licensed art therapists.

This legislation is important because it expands access to therapeutic mental health services, providing access to care for the 1.4 million Oregon Medicaid recipients, addressing disparities in care for low-income and underserved communities. Art therapists are trained both in art and psychological theory, on par with other mental health clinicians. The entry to practice requires a Master's degree in Art Therapy, two-years of supervised clinical practice, and passing a board certification exam. This legislation aligns Oregon with the 13 other states that recognize art therapists as qualified mental health providers and it expands the workforce by providing more mental health providers for clients to access services.

I am a licensed and registered art therapist who additionally endeavored to pursue my LPC here in Oregon. I took the additional time and expense of securing my LPC license so that I could reach more clients in the midst of our mental health crisis. Art therapy has the ability to reach many people in need of mental health support that are not able to engage in traditional talk therapy. I whole heartedly believe that if art therapists were recognized for their training and education by receiving status as billable providers, many more clients would be served. This is good not only for the field of art therapy but for the many Oregonians who struggle with access to good mental health care.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy Mandel
ATR, LAT, LPC