

3/13/2025

Re: HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

I am writing to express my strong support of House Bill 3761. As an Art Therapist practicing in Oregon, I have personally witnessed the profound benefits that art therapy offers individuals across various ages and communities. My professional experience at Fora Health, providing co-occurring art therapy services in the public sector to adults ranging from 18 to 70 years old, has reinforced my conviction in the transformative power of art therapy. The improvements I observed in clients' emotional resilience, mental health outcomes, and overall well-being were significant and affirm the necessity of expanding access to these vital services.

Art therapists' training aligns closely with other mental health disciplines, requiring equivalent coursework, ethical practice standards, rigorous clinical supervision, and successful completion of a board certification exam. Due to the relatively recent establishment of the Oregon Licensed Certified Art Therapist license, Medicaid has not yet recognized this license type for insurance reimbursement. This limitation disproportionately affects low-income and underserved populations by restricting their access to essential therapeutic care.

Your support of House Bill 3761 will eliminate unnecessary redundancy, allowing new and current art therapists to practice effectively without the burdensome requirement of maintaining multiple licenses. Additionally, it will streamline licensing procedures and significantly reduce administrative costs for state licensing boards, including the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon, Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, and Oregon Health Licensing Office. HB 3761 addresses these challenges by creating a supervised, provisional license for newly graduated master's level art therapists and consolidating all art therapist licensing under one board—a structure that mirrors existing procedures for professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers in Oregon.

Passing this legislation is crucial to expanding access to trauma-informed, therapeutic mental health care for all Oregonians, particularly those in marginalized communities who benefit most from such support. Art therapy uniquely engages individuals through creative expression, promoting healing, emotional insight, and resilience in ways that complement, expand, and enhance traditional therapeutic approaches.

Thank you for your consideration and support in passing this significant and impactful piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Baylee Bullock

ATR, CADC I, MA in Art Therapy