

Submitter: Bre Pleasant SE Portland, OR

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 reimburse licensed art therapists, licensed certified art therapists, and provisionally licensed art therapists for behavioral health services under the state's medical assistance program.

After graduation, I have questioned the redundancy of needing to hold multiple license types to practice as an art therapist. Also, the cost of multiple supervisors is required. As an art therapist, I've had many conversations with potential employers who would pay other behavioral health provider supervisors but not an art therapy supervisor. I would need two supervisors for separate licenses to provide care services in one state. House Bill 3761 will establish supervised, provisional licenses 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.

As a newly graduated graduate student in art therapy with a focus on supporting underrepresented populations, I have seen and personally struggled to articulate experiences through words alone. This bill is not just about reimbursement; it is about recognizing the necessity of diverse therapeutic modalities in genuinely 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. Art therapists' requirements include a master's degree, two years of supervised clinical practice, and board certification. We are like any licensed mental health provider, with additional training.

Thank you for your consideration,
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