

PJ Jimenez

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HB3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

Hello legislature team, I am writing to express my support of the 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 provides access to alternative therapeutic mental health services, which would expand the care for 1.4 million Oregon Medicaid recipients, addressing disparities in care in low-income and underserved communities. Art therapists are trained in both 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 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 serviced.

I personally believe art therapy is important and beneficial. As a current art therapy student, and a practicing art therapy intern in a secure inpatient facility I have gotten to see how art therapy effects individuals. By working at an inpatient facility, I have been able to provide art therapy to individuals who likely do not have access to those types of services outside of this environment. Passing the HB3761 would make art therapy accessible for the individuals who I work with that benefit from art therapy outside of the facility. By the bill being passed it would also recognize all the education and dedication that my peers, professors, supervisors, and practicing art therapists go through to get our degrees. Please take all these points into consideration while you review all the testimonies.