

Delaine Due, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, LAT, CDAC I

Licensed Art Therapist #07-265 • LPC #C4275 P.O. Box 904 Ashland, OR 97520 Ph 541-499-5214 • Fax 541-709-5543 <u>delained@peoplesart.net</u>

March 18, 2025 Re: HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

To: Emily McIntire

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 have been the only Board Certified and licensed art therapist in Southern Oregon for over 20 years who has provided teaching, private practice, contract work, supervision and community outreach. The demand for services in Southern Oregon has been overwhelming for many of those years. The recognition of the profession, streamlining art therapy licensing and adding specific reimbursement capacity will make Oregon cutting edge in the field and attract more providers! I will certainly be doing my part to meet the requests I get for art therapy from hospitals and other service agencies such as Rogue Retreat and Options.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely claime 49

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