

3/18/2025

Re: HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

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.

As a rehab physician working at a local hospital, I see firsthand how valuable the involvement of art therapists have been in supporting the mental health of my patients. Their ability to connect to patients through the incorporation of artistic media gives them unique opportunities to provide psychologic support; engage with medical providers across specialties to provide trauma-informed care; and facilitates patient engagement in rehabilitation, resulting in improved physical and mental health outcomes. They are an essential component of the medical & mental health team and should be reimbursed commensurate with the level of expertise they contribute.

Additionally, the significant shortage of providers in Oregon is a significant barrier to patients accessing appropriate mental health services in a timely manner. By recognizing the art therapists as qualified mental health providers, this bill would expand the pool of available mental health professionals, improving access to vitally important mental health care in Oregon.

It is my hope that you will see the importance of HB3761, which promotes licensure and payment on par with other master's level behavioral health providers.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Laura Jones, MD

ABPMR certified in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine, and Brain Injury Medicine