

Testimony for Art Therapy Licensure Senate Bill 255, House Bill 2432

Dear Committee for Art Therapy Licensure Senate Bill 255, House Bill 2432,

I am Jamie Waters, Lead Art Therapist at the Oregon State Hospital. I would like to submit my testimony via email for the Art Therapy Licensure Senate Bill 255, House Bill 2432 hearing on Wednesday February 28, 2017.

I support this license but under the condition that the amended language I have highlighted in red on line 7 in House Bill 2432 be changed as indicated below.

Proposed amendment language: “A person licensed under the laws of this state in a profession or occupation other than art therapy who uses **art therapy** in a manner incidental to the person’s practice; or

Change back to original bill language: “A person licensed under the laws of this state in a profession or occupation other than art therapy who uses **art** in a manner incidental to the person’s practice; or

This proposed amendment to house bill 2432 would contradict the very purpose of the Art Therapy Licensure Senate Bill 255, House Bill 2432 which is to protect the public.

In addition, I wanted to provide the committee with clarification on some information I received from members of the Oregon Art Therapy Task Force regarding House Bill 2432:

“There is some potential opposition from the LPC lobbyist stated by Elizabeth Remley- as **there are bachelors trained people working at the state hospital who will be not in compliance if the bill is passed** and they are opposing it, despite the profession clearly stating you need a master’s degree in art therapy to practice.”

We do not have bachelor’s level people in our Oregon State Hospital Art Therapy program. Art Therapists at the hospital must have a master’s degree in art therapy as well as an ATR credential (ATCB registered art therapist). Mental Health Specialists at the hospital may have bachelor or master degrees but have been instructed not to practice art therapy at the hospital. They have also been instructed by the hospital’s Psychology program not to facilitate art-based groups, but some do anyway. These are the very people that the licensure bill should be protecting the public against.

Sincerely,

Jamie Waters, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, NCC