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April 24, 2017

Senator Sara Gelser
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court St, NE S-405
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2432

Dear Senator Sara Gelser:

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for your time in reviewing HB 2432. I am very proud of being an art therapist and am continually amazed at how powerful the creative process is in assisting individuals to heal and grow.

In 1997, I received my Masters in Art Therapy. Over the years, I have been astonished at how many people have misrepresented themselves to consumers stating they are art therapists. Art Therapy is a specialized field and it is more than creating art with people within a therapeutic environment. Years of education, training and supervision are essential to the practice. I have had many conversations with people who have stated they engage in art therapy who are not trained. More often than not, once they are educated about the field, they are open to the feedback and have removed that title. However, I am one person. I am excited for HB 2432 as it will provide the language, clarification and protection that will ensure proper representation of the profession and well-being of those being served.

I am asking for your support in moving HB 2432 forward for a vote.

Sincerely,

Kristine A Bella

Kristine Bella, ATR-BC
Art Therapist
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