

Testimony submitted via email.

Dear Committee Members,

I am a licensed social clinical worker with over 25 years of experience and am writing to express support for Art Therapy Licensure. I know the value of having a specific license; and while I understand that many Art Therapists are now licensed as Professional Counselors, I also know that art therapy is a powerful and effective treatment that requires rigorous graduate level education and training. I have enormous respect and admiration for the expertise of trained art therapists and of the effectiveness of art therapy in accessing clients strengths as a way to promote reduction of symptoms. I have referred many clients to trained art therapists because it is such a powerful and effective form of therapy.

I remember a client that I referred to an art therapist, who even in his first session was asked to create a piece of art. It solidified the alliance between the therapist and the client and deepened the opportunity for the work so that this person who had a lot of trauma would experience a drastic reduction of symptoms. Of course that happened over the course of time, but even that first day the skill of the art therapist was apparent.

I recall referring a child to an art therapist and that child over time produced a portfolio of art that demonstrated his strengths and helped him develop and grow in important ways unique to art therapy.

I believe this bill will foster growth in the field of art therapy in Oregon and will benefit consumers because it will enhance and regulate the quality of treatment services.

I know that Social Workers and LPC's use art in their clinical work with people. This bill will not prevent them from using art in their work. At the same time I believe it is important that this bill would set art therapists apart as a highly specialized branch of therapy that requires specific training.

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