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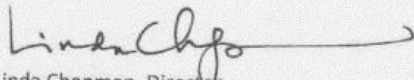
Dear Coordinator of the Oregon Art Therapy License Task Force,

I am writing to express my strong support for licensure of professional art therapists in the state of Oregon. My name is Linda Chapman and I am a Registered and Board Certified art therapist practicing in California. I provide art therapy services to children and adolescents in private practice and I am a contract employee of a mental health agency in my community.

Two main points of concern are my motivation for writing this letter. First, art therapy is a distinct profession and not a modality. The past two decades have afforded a greater understanding of the impact of acute and chronic stress on development and functioning. The massive paradigm shift occurring across all sciences is now focusing on the dominance of the right hemisphere of the brain in treating most mental health disorders. Art therapy utilizes the integrative capacity of the brain for maximum therapeutic potential as the material from the right hemisphere is accessed and utilized along with left hemisphere or linguistic discourse. As art therapy research and practice develops, it is wise to have a license that ensures that only formally trained and credentialed art therapists offer art therapy services.

My second point pertains to public policy issues and protection of the public. Historically and currently, art therapists are licensed via alternative licensing options such as Marriage and Family Therapists or Licensed Professional Counselors. At no time during the licensing process or during the required examinations is an art therapist assessed on one's art therapy knowledge or skills. Those seeking alternative licenses are assessed on their ability to do verbal therapy. Once licensed, they are free to do art therapy without having been assessed on their level of art therapy competency. Therefore, the idea that the license protects the public is null in this situation. I strongly urge you to consider the legal ramifications of this gap in public policy that ensures the public that those offering art therapy mental health services are indeed qualified.

Kind regards,



Linda Chapman, Director
Art Therapy Institute of the Redwoods