

Testimony submitted via email.

Good Afternoon,

I have been a practicing art therapist and mental health counselor in Oregon for over 12 years and I seek individual and group supervision from an art therapist and with other art therapists!

An Art Therapy license is needed in order to protect art therapists by state regulation of these services. As a credentialed art therapist working in Oregon, I am one of 144 professionals who share that title and would benefit greatly from receiving such a license. We are nationally regulated by the Art Therapy Credentials Board.

Credentialed art therapists have graduate level training. I completed my Masters in Art Therapy and Counseling at Marylhurst University (12 years ago), which prepared me for the vast world of health care services. The program was intense and focused on rigorous assessment, documenting skills, and practicum experience. Additional qualifications for art therapy licensure would be ongoing supervision, ATCB approval and successful completion of a credentialing exam for either the entry level (LAT) or professional license (LPAT).

This bill does not prohibit licensed therapists from using art methods with clients in a manner incidental to the person's practice. The bill outlines a structure for a license application and enforcement program (through the HLO) that is streamlined, simple and low-cost for applicants and licensees.

This bill will promote the field of art therapy in Oregon and will help consumers through enhancing and regulating this essential specialization of treatment services.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

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