

ANNETTE SHORE, MA, ATR-BC, ATCS, LPC, NCC
Art Therapist, Counselor, and Clinical Supervisor
3434 SW Kelly Ave, Suite 8
Portland, OR 97239
(503) 222-1807

RE: ART THERAPY LICENSE HB2432

TO: Honorable Committee Members
From: Annette Shore MA, ATR-BC, ATCS, NCC, LPC

I have been a practicing art therapist and mental health counselor in Oregon for over 25 years. I also have provided training and supervision for many art therapists who work in Oregon.

Why is an art therapy License needed in Oregon?

Consumers of art therapy in Oregon are not currently protected by state regulation of these services. Art Therapy is a powerful treatment modality that requires oversight.

How many art therapists would be licensed?

There are 144 credentialed art therapists in the State of Oregon. They are nationally regulated by the Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB). This number continues to grow.

What are the qualifications necessary for art therapy licensure?

Art therapy master's level graduate level training includes intensive study and practicum experiences. This is followed by supervised professional work experience. ATCB approval provides the basis for eligibility of both the entry level license (LAT) the professional license (LPAT), which is awarded upon passing a rigorous credentialing exam.

Vignettes from my practice that exemplify the use of art therapy:

A 38-year-old veteran with combat flashbacks used art therapy to safely express unbearable memories and then to gradually find ways to reduce violent behaviors and anxiety symptoms.

A 4-year-old boy who witnessed domestic violence and was afflicted with nightmares and behaved aggressively, used art therapy to portray haunted houses that he said were like his parents fights. After safely expressing fears he was increasingly able to find comfort from adults and to interact in a gentle and kind manner towards peers, teachers and family members.

A group of 5 patients with Alzheimer's Disease who spent their days in isolation, attended an art therapy group in which they painted scenes that included vanquished landscapes. Working on meaningful expression was an antidote to pervasive states of isolation and disconnection. The discussions included statements such as, "In art therapy, we can make even the bad things become beautiful."

ANNETTE SHORE, MA, ATR-BC, ATCS, LPC, NCC
Art Therapist, Counselor, and Clinical Supervisor
3434 SW Kelly Ave, Suite 8
Portland, OR 97239
(503) 222-1807

RE: ART THERAPY LICENSE HB2432

A Few Final Thoughts:

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 encourage growth of the field of art therapy in Oregon and will help consumers through enhancing and regulating quality of treatment services.

This bill does not prohibit licensed therapists from using art methods with clients in a manner incidental to the person's practice.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Shore, MA, ATR-BC, ATCS, NCC, LPC

2/13/2017