

14 March 2025

HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

To: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3761. Art therapists' training is comparable to other mental health disciplines, with rigorous coursework, ethical practice standards, clinical supervision, and a board certification exam. However, because the Oregon Licensed Certified Art Therapist (LCAT) credential is still relatively new, it has not yet been recognized as a billable license under Medicaid. This limits access to critical mental health services for low-income and underserved communities.

Your support of House Bill 3761 will help eliminate unnecessary barriers for new graduates and current art therapists, allowing them to practice under a single, recognized license without needing multiple credentials for insurance reimbursement. This will also streamline administrative processes, reducing costs and redundancy for state licensing boards, including the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon, and the Oregon Health Licensing Office. By establishing a supervised provisional license for new master's-level art therapists and consolidating oversight under one licensing board, HB 3761 aligns with the licensure pathways already in place for professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and clinical social workers in Oregon.

As a graduate art therapy student at Lewis & Clark College, I have seen firsthand how art therapy provides an essential avenue for healing, particularly for individuals who struggle to engage with traditional talk therapy. Art therapy is more than just an alternative—it is a powerful, evidence-based practice that helps people process trauma, develop coping strategies, and build resilience. Without insurance reimbursement, many Oregonians, especially those in rural communities or with limited financial resources, cannot access these life-changing services. Passing HB 3761 ensures that more people in need can receive comprehensive, creative mental health care from qualified professionals.

I appreciate your time and urge you to support this vital legislation to expand access to mental health services in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Phelps". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Elizabeth Phelps
Graduate Art Therapy Student
Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling