

April 22, 2025

Re: HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

To: Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, Sen Campos, Sen Linthicum, and Sen Reynolds

I am writing to express my support of House Bill 3761. This legislation is important because it expands access to therapeutic mental health services for Oregonians and empowers a growing workforce of mental health professionals. Art therapists provide trauma-informed care that enhances emotional resilience, supports healing, and improves mental health outcomes. By supporting HB 3761, you are reducing barriers for mental health professionals and increasing access to essential mental health care in Oregon.

As an art therapy faculty, clinical coordinator, supervisor, and practitioner, I can attest to the fact that art therapists' training is comparable to other mental health training with equivalent coursework, ethical practice, clinical supervision, and passing a board certification exam. As the Oregon Licensed Certified Art Therapist license is relatively new, recognition of the license as billable by Medicaid has not yet been established. This restricts low-income and underserved communities access to these essential services.

Your support of House Bill 3761 will also help to reduce redundancy for new graduates and current art therapists to no longer need multiple license types to practice as an art therapist and to receive insurance reimbursement. It will also further streamline the process reducing administrative costs for these state licensing boards which all currently oversee similar aspects of licensing needed by art therapists in Oregon: Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon, Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, and Oregon Health Licensing Office. House Bill 3761 will do this by establishing a supervised, provisional license for newly graduated master's level art therapists and bring all license levels under one licensing board which will align the process used by other behavioral health providers (professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and clinical social workers) in Oregon.

I appreciate your time and vote to pass such an important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Kristine Bella
LCAT, ATR-BC, ATCS

Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Homeowner
Arte Soleil, LLC Business Owner
Lewis & Clark College Art Therapy Core Faculty/Clinical Coordinator