

Submitter: Kadyn Mauldin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3761

Kadyn Mauldin
6128 S Corbett Ave
Portland, OR 97239

April 25, 2025

Re: HB 3761 Art Therapy Insurance Reimbursement

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

Hello, my name is Kadyn and I am writing to express my support of House Bill 3761 which requires the Oregon Health Authority and coordinated care organizations to provide reimbursement in the state's medical assistance program for the cost of behavioral health services provided by licensed art therapists, licensed certified art therapists and provisional licensed art therapists.

As you may already know, in Oregon the need for mental health care is high. In a 2023 study by KFF on mental health and substance use, 32.3% of adults in Oregon with symptoms of anxiety or depression said they needed therapy but didn't get it in the past month, which is higher than the U.S. average of 28.2%. Across the U.S., many kids who need mental health care don't receive it. In 2011, Oregon's age-adjusted suicide rate was higher than the national level.

Art therapists are employed in Oregon in a number of key places, which include Kaiser, Providence, the VA, OHSU, the state hospital, day treatment facilities, schools, outpatient treatment facilities, correctional facilities, domestic violence programs, retirement communities and private practice. This legislation is important because it expands access to therapeutic mental health services, providing a portal to care for the 1.4 million Oregon Medicaid recipients, addressing disparities in care for low-income and underserved communities. It is our hope that with the support of passing this important legislation the public will be able to locate and connect with art therapy services and employers will be able to bill for services by Licensed Credentialed Art Therapists ensuring that the credential aligns with their unique specialized care.

As an art therapy intern about to enter the field, this bill would greatly impact my ease of entry into the field, which on a larger scale, means more qualified providers to address the mental health crisis in Oregon. Our public needs art therapy!

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kadyn Mauldin,
Art therapy Intern
Student at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling