

4/30/2025

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. 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 help to reduce redundancy for new graduates and current art therapists to no longer need to hold 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 the state licensing boards, Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon, Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, and Oregon Health Licensing Office, which all currently oversee similar aspects of licensing needed by art therapists in Oregon. 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 (aligns with processes used by other behavioral health providers (professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and clinical social workers) in Oregon.

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 a licensed art therapist working in a local pediatric hospital for the last 18 years, I have been one of the sole providers of psychotherapy for injured and ill children during hospitalization. My skill set is seen as equitable and, in fact at times, more advanced than other mental health colleagues on our treatment teams. Children receiving art therapy services while hospitalized, would also greatly benefit from ongoing outpatient mental health services, which we know our very difficult to access in our state. Additionally, families of children served at the children's hospital often have limited financial resources to pursue mental health services without Medicaid support. This bill would open up much needed resources and increase equitable access to care for our most vulnerable community members.

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

Sincerely,
Katie Dunn, LCAT, ATR-BC, ATCS