

Donohue-Olivieri
30 Highbrook Rd.
Norwalk, CT 06851

February 19, 2015

Proposed S.B. No. 250 AN ACT CONCERNING ART THERAPY.

Good Afternoon Connecticut General Assembly Members,

My name is Lisa Donohue-Olivieri and I am an Art Therapist working at the Resiliency Center of Newtown, which was established in response to the shooting that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

I am writing in support of Bill SB 250. This bill would be of great service to the residents of Connecticut by ensuring that all individuals providing art therapy have demonstrated a base level of therapeutic competence. Art Therapy is a mental health profession that helps clients express and process challenging emotional material, improve self esteem, and enhance social and communication skills. At the Resiliency Center of Newtown, myself and other creative arts therapists utilize the creative process to assist individuals with post traumatic stress disorder. Through the therapeutic relationship as well as the art making process, individuals are able to reduce anxiety and anger and develop emotional regulation skills.

Many arts based programs exist and while I value them, this bill will help consumers to differentiate between a therapeutic and nontherapeutic arts-based professional.

Sincerely,
Lisa Donohue-Olivieri, MA, LPC, LADC, LCAT, ATR-BC
Licensed Professional Counselor
Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor
Licensed Creative Arts Therapist
Board Certified Art Therapist

Resiliency Center of Newtown
153 South Main Street
Newtown, CT 06470
(203) 364.9750
(203) 505.3063 (c)