

To whom It May Concern:

Art therapy is a distinct mental health profession in which clients, facilitated by the art therapist, use art media, the creative process, and the resulting artwork to explore their feelings, reconcile emotional conflicts, foster self-awareness, manage behavior and addictions, develop social skills, improve reality orientation, reduce anxiety, and increase self-esteem. Art therapy practice requires knowledge of visual art (drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art forms) and the creative process, as well as of human development, psychological, and counseling theories and techniques. Educational requirements include theories of art therapy, counseling, and psychotherapy; ethics and standards of practice; assessment and evaluation; individual, group, and family art therapy techniques; human and creative development; multicultural issues; research methods; and internship experiences in clinical, community, and/or other settings.

Because of the uniqueness of the study and practice of art therapy, practitioners must be trained within an approved and accredited art therapy master's program recognized by the American Art Therapy Association. Therefore training for the profession is conducted by educational institutions accredited by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation with art therapy master's programs approved by the Educational Program Approval Board of the American Art Therapy Association.

As a Professor in the only graduate program in Art Therapy in The State of Connecticut, I can attest to the high degree of professionalism and competence with which our students complete the program. Licensing allows protection for consumers who would then be able to recognize an art therapy professional who has the qualifications to practice ethical art therapy.

I am fully in support of the state approval to grant art therapy licensure and I agree to the proposed Bill#354 with the adjustments suggested by the Art Therapy Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Evie Lindemann, LMFT, ATR-BC, ATCS
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