

Senate Bill 238
23Feb2020

Dear Chairman McColley and the members of the Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of Senate Bill 238.

I am a mother, a nurse, and work in the pharmaceutical and device research field. Personally, our family has seen and had experiences with addiction and mental health. A cookie cutter counseling session is not always the best option, but I think pairing it with an art therapy outlet for self-expression is such a beneficial option for patients.

I see this as being especially useful to people with disabilities. We have a friend who has a blind son and the textures used with art therapy is a great option for him. We also know both a deaf and an autistic child who cannot communicate in a traditional verbal counseling session, but expression with art is perfect for them.

Art therapy licensure will be an asset to the mental health community, as people will be able to have this service covered by their insurance. Without licensure, the insurance companies do not recognize art therapy and will not reimburse. What a shame to deny this outlet to those in need.

Licensure in Ohio may add jobs too- many art therapists go to school at Ursuline college in Ohio but they have to move because our state doesn't have the licensure so they cannot work in Ohio.

Please support this important bill and licensure!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Tilberg".

Linda Tilberg, RN
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