



20 May 2018

Dear Chairman Huffman and the members of the Ohio House Health Committee,

Please accept this letter as support for HB 557.

For the last 16 years, Rahab has been serving women recovering from horrors of sex trafficking. I currently am the director of a 10 bed, adult safe house that specializes in the holistic healing of women that have endured this specific trauma. As you can image, our mental health needs are severe and extremely complex, including many residents with DID, schizophrenia, and CPTSD. Our safe house contracts with an Art Therapist that comes to our residence multiple times a month.

Art Therapy has been an integral part of the rehabilitation process as our women heal from their past trauma and ongoing after-effects. The shame and guilt associated with sexual trauma often makes it difficult for survivors to verbalize their stories. The process of Art Therapy provides a safe way for their story to be told in a creative and non-evasive way. Often time, our residents report feeling more mindful, present and comfortable in their own bodies post therapy.

At Rahab, it is essential for our contracted Art Therapist to be a trained and licensed professional. Our specialist must be well equipped to addresses the complex emotions and realities of our population with best practices. We fully support the adherence to professional standards in order to guarantee this expressive therapy will continue to serve the unique needs of sex trafficking survivors.

Sincerely,

Alicia Ley
Director of Safe Housing
Rahab Ministries

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