

Senate Bill 238
February 17, 2020

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

Please accept this letter in support of Senate Bill 238.

As an Infectious Disease Nurse Practitioner I find myself constantly perusing research databanks to provide the most current and evidence based care to my patients. Mental health is a huge variable when treating complex and chronic disease. Compliance to a treatment regimen can easily be interrupted by misinterpretation, mistrust or paranoia. Compliance is the single-most important driver of health care reimbursement (Shafrin et al, 2017). Complimentary health approaches have become more readily recognized by the health community and have shown tangible increases in health outcomes both physically and mentally. Providers are constantly employing a “least and best” approach in the age of the opioid epidemic and complementary health approaches are filling a void previously filled by pharmaceuticals. Art therapy in specific is multifaceted and can assist the health care team in managing a multitude of health concerns from mental health to chronic pain. Effective longitudinal management of these practices and their impact to the citizens of the state of Ohio would be immediately influenced upon recognition by the state committee on health. There is a growing body of evidence which strongly suggests that introducing arts activities into a variety of different healthcare settings can have a positive impact on the health and well-being of patients and service users. Health care professionals hold predominantly positive perceptions of their use. This largely positive perception by healthcare professionals will aid in the implementation of art therapy in the healthcare environment and transition this field into the forefront of modern medicine (Wilson et al, 2016). Successful recognition of art therapy license will allow for continual investigation into this modalities role in the healthcare setting and will also allow current providers who have exhausted all resources an additional source of referral. As a nurse and a citizen of the state of Ohio, I urge the committee to recognize the license of art therapists. The health care community is a tight net of interconnected modalities and by not recognizing art therapy and its role in our states health community we allow a large void in which patients, better yet, citizens will fall and that is a failure. Do not allow any more failure to the citizens of Ohio, recognize art therapy.

Shafrin, J., Forma, F., Scherer, E., Hatch, A., Vytlačil, E., & Lakdawalla, D. (2017). The Cost of Adherence Mismeasurement in Serious Mental Illness: A Claims-Based Analysis. *American Journal Of Managed Care*, 23(5), e156-e163.

Wilson, C., Bungay, H., Munn-Giddings, C., & Boyce, M. (2016). Healthcare professionals' perceptions of the value and impact of the arts in healthcare settings: A critical review of the literature. *International Journal Of Nursing Studies*, 5690-101. doi:10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2015.11.003

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Albright RN, APRN, CCRN
Family Nurse Practitioner Infectious Diseases