In view of the mental health crisis in our state, and the lack of adequate resources for Virginians who would benefit from mental health treatment, I am contacting you as (an art therapist/ art therapy consumer/ mental health practitioner/ concerned citizen) regarding 2020’s SB 713 which was passed and signed into law on March 11th of 2020. It established licensure for art therapists that would protect the public and serve to expand access to vital mental health resources for all Virginians. Populating the Advisory Board on Art Therapy and empowering the Board of Counseling to issue licenses to Virginian art therapists will serve to provide clarity in the marketplace by instituting title and practice protection around art therapy, protecting the public from bad actors or untrained professionals from other fields who would otherwise market themselves as art therapists while providing dangerously substandard care.

Act now to protect the public and address the mental health care crisis by acting on SB 713.