

KANSAS ART THERAPY LICENSURE CAMPAIGN: WRITING LETTERS TO LAWMAKERS

It's critical that lawmakers hear from their constituents about passing the Art Therapy Licensing and Practice Act into law. To find out who your state representative is, visit <https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/>. Lawmakers only want to hear from their constituents from their district.

In your letter, you may want to include:

- You are an art therapist, and where you practice
 - Example of client groups you work with
 - Why you believe it's so important to expand access to mental health care in the community you work (for example, if you work with young people in schools, or at a hospital or treatment center)
 - Stories of art therapists who leave the state due to lack of licensure
 - **Bill name and number:** HB2072 **Art Therapist Licensure Act**
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Art Therapist Sample Template:

Dear [Representative/Senator name],

On behalf of **over 200 art therapists in Kansas and the 1.18 million Kansans living in mental health care professional shortage areas**, I am urging you to cosponsor **HB2072, the Art Therapist Licensure Act**, which would establish an art therapy license. Your support of this bill would help expand access to mental health care and protect the public from harm caused by individuals falsely advertising themselves as art therapists. Establishing an art therapy license would recognize art therapy as a unique mental health and human services profession and enable members of the public to identify a properly trained art therapist.

By supporting this bill, you are helping expand access to mental health care by increasing the number of qualified mental health professionals in the state and protecting the public from harm caused by individuals falsely advertising themselves as art therapists.

Art therapy is a distinct mental health and behavioral science profession that provides a unique approach for assessing and treating a broad range of physical, psychological, behavioral, and developmental conditions. It offers a means of communication for clients who cannot find the words to express anxiety, pain, or emotions. Art therapists work with individuals of all ages, including children who are experiencing behavioral challenges or those with autism spectrum disorder. **They assist people and caregivers in health crises; victims of violence or other trauma—including our military service members and student survivors of mass shootings; older adults with dementia; and anyone who needs help coping with life's challenges.**

As an art therapist based in [your city], I work every day with people seeking support through crisis and trauma, including [add some client groups you work with, such as children, veterans, older Americans, etc.]. Art therapists are uniquely qualified to help address the myriad mental health issues that Kansans are experiencing as they can integrate nonverbal cues and metaphors that are often expressed through the creative process. Credentialed art therapists like me have at least a master's degree and are trained in art and psychological theory.

According to KFF, **one in three adults (30.5%) in Kansas report symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder**. Furthermore, 37.7% of Kansans who need therapy are unable to obtain it. It's more important than ever to establish policies that would support our state's mental health and offer more mental health care options to meet the needs of people who are struggling.

Passing the Art Therapist Licensure Act will give Kansans the assurance that their mental health provider can be trusted. It will also be a critical first step toward securing insurance reimbursement for art therapy services and retaining art therapy graduates who may prefer to work in one of the 13 states/jurisdictions that provide licensure.

Thank you for your consideration, and for supporting the mental health and well-being of the people in Kansas.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your address]

Non-Art Therapist Sample Template:

In your letter, you may want to include:

- If you or a loved one have benefited from art therapy
- If you or a loved one have been harmed by someone falsely advertising as an art therapist
- **Bill name and number:** [HB2072](#) **Art Therapist Licensure Act**

Dear [Representative/Senator name],

On behalf of **over 200 art therapists in Kansas that serve people like [me/my spouse/my family member/etc.] and 1.18 million Kansans living in mental health care professional shortage areas**, I am urging you to cosponsor HB2072, the Art Therapist Licensure Act. Your support of this bill would help expand access to mental health care and protect the public from harm caused by individuals falsely advertising themselves as art therapists.

As a constituent based in [your city], I have seen firsthand the benefits of art therapy [add specific examples/stories]. Art therapists are uniquely qualified to help address the myriad mental health issues that Kansans are experiencing as they can integrate nonverbal cues and metaphors that are often expressed through the creative process. Credentialed art therapists have at least a master's degree and are trained in art and psychological theory.

[I/my loved one] struggled with mental health, and [I/they] are not alone. According to KFF, **one in three adults (30.5%) in Kansas report symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder**. Furthermore, 37.7% of Kansans who need therapy are unable to obtain it. Art therapy offered [me/my loved one] [include benefits of art therapy/reasons it was preferred over other therapy methods for you or a loved one]. It's more important than ever to establish policies that would support our state's mental health and offer more mental health care options to meet the needs of people who are struggling. Traditional therapy may be daunting to many, and art therapy can offer an alternative that still allows individuals to seek the care they need.

Passing the Art Therapist Licensure Act will give Kansans the assurance that their mental health provider can be trusted. It will also be a critical first step toward securing insurance reimbursement for art therapy services and retaining art therapy graduates who may prefer to work in one of the 13 states/jurisdictions that provide licensure. Increasing access through licensure will allow more Kansans like [me/my spouse/my family member/etc.] to access the benefits of art therapy.

Thank you for your consideration, and for supporting the mental health and well-being of the people in Kansas.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your address]