

# Michigan Association of Art Therapy

# MAAT News!



## News for MAAT Members

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## MAAT Presents in Front of 8 House Reps at the House C.A.R.E.S. Task Force Meeting in Harrison

Harrison, MI, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Last Friday, MAAT presented in front of 8 of the 14 Michigan House Representatives appointed to the House CARES Task Force. The Task Force is assigned to add or amend legislation that will better serve those with mental health concerns, especially veterans, those with substance use disorder, and those who repeatedly find themselves in the justice system. Art Therapist, Wendy Case, of the Brighton Recovery Center gave a compelling presentation and MAAT Legislative Chair, Amber James spoke as well.

The information was well received by the bipartisan panel. MAAT is moving forward to continue discussions with these and other legislators regarding state licensure and making art therapy more accessible to those who need it. Of course, we need your help to make this happen.



### TAKE ACTION!

#### 1. We need our experienced art therapists to be prepared to testify to our legislators when our bill gets to committee.

There is prep-work involved, so identifying a team of about 8-10 art therapists and getting them prepared to testify to the Health Policy Committee is imperative in getting our bill passed. Please contact MAAT if interested or forward this to art therapists who are non-MAAT members who would be a good fit.

**2. We need letters of support.** Legislators need to see written statements from yourselves, your employers, your colleagues and other stakeholders that art therapy is an effective and valued treatment. Attached is a template of a letter of support. Feel free to use this template or develop your own. The best letters will come from the decision-makers of organizations that have a vested interest in art therapy. If it's ethically viable, letters from clients would be helpful. Art therapists are also encouraged to write letters of support as well. Please remember that protecting the public is the main priority for licensure. Please send the letters to MAAT to include in our legislative packet that we give to legislators.

# MAAT

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