# Michigan Association of Art Therapy

**MAAT News!**

**News for MAAT Members**

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**We’re Kicking Off Our State Licensure Campaign and We Need Your Help!**

**August, 2017**: The MAAT board is very excited to announce that we are ready to officially kick off our campaign for state licensure! **We plan to have our licensure bill sponsored, supported and ready to introduce in January 2018!!!** The MAAT board has been hard at work - planning, meeting, networking, advocating, typing, meeting some more, and so on. Here are some of the things we’ve been doing to lay the groundwork before we officially launch our campaign:

* **Awareness Campaign:** We have improved our social media presence and have taken our new “*swag*” out to local health fairs in order to create awareness about art therapy.
* **Bill Outline:** We worked with AATA to determine the best course of action in proposing state licensure. We drafted an outline of our bill and have sent the outline off to AATA’s lobbyist, Dean Sagar, to have our full bill drafted.
* **Legislative Packet:** We have created a comprehensive informational packet to be given to legislators. The document is quite lengthy and is meant to provide legislators with easy-to-find answers and supporting data to commonly asked questions. We’ve also drafted a template to use for letters of support that will add to the legislative packet.
* **Networking:** We’ve been networking with stakeholders and legislators to expand our reach as we prepare to officially launch our campaign.

**The next step is up to you! We need letters of support** to show legislators the impact of art therapy in our state. We will be adding these letters to our legislative packet. We need letters from organizations (places where you work, places that support the populations with whom you work, those impacted by art therapy, etc.). The letters should describe the impact of art therapy and the need for state licensure. We have created a template that you can use as a guide, if needed.

We will officially kick off the campaign at our **next MAAT meeting on Sunday, August 27th at 11am. The meeting will be held in Ann Arbor at trustArt Studios, 7885 Jackson Rd, Ste 1.** At the meeting, we will provide pamphlets that you can give out to help explain art therapy as you approach people/organizations for letters of support. We will also have the legislative packet and bill outline for your review and provide any updates that may have developed between now and then. If you have any questions about licensure, the letters of support, the campaign or anything else, we can answer them at the meeting or you may send them to the MAAT email at michiganarttherapy@gmail.com. In order for this campaign to be successful, we will need everyone’s help! So please, ask questions, come to meetings, or get involved any way that you can.