



www.nadt.org

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR DRAMA THERAPY**

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Dear Members of Congress,

The National Association for Drama Therapy (NADT) is proud to serve as a **National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day, 2010**. As advocates for drama therapy, we strive to develop and maintain professional competencies for drama therapists, increase access to consumers in need of our services, and educate the public about the significant benefits of our field.

Drama therapists are master's degree professionals who integrate drama and theater processes with psychotherapy and psychology in order to facilitate emotional and physical healing and well-being. We teach life skills which include goal setting, coping skills, problem solving, and the expression and processing of feelings. Drama therapy provides immediate "on your feet" learning through an active and experiential approach.

Americans from all walks of life, various ages and stages of development benefit from drama therapy. These include people recovering from trauma, including PTSD, children dealing with autism, developmentally and mentally disabled persons, older adults with Alzheimer or other dementia related illnesses, behavioral health consumers, and at-risk youth.

Drama therapists work in state and federal healthcare facilities, schools and after-school programs, substance abuse treatment centers, adult day care centers, community centers, foster care and other social service agencies, nursing homes, corporations, theaters, and private settings.

On this day of advocating for the Arts, we urge members of congress to:

- ✓ Review the Arts in Healthcare Issues Brief found in this handbook
- ✓ Assess the current status of federal support of the creative arts in healthcare programs to improve the quality of healthcare services by conducting a study through the Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- ✓ Increase access to Creative Arts Therapies in healthcare programs addressing older Americans, and those with Post-Traumatic Stress disorder, Autism, and other conditions through research funding and regulatory support of federal health programs

Across America, people's lives are enriched by the Arts; their well-being is dependent on it. We thank you for your support, especially in Creative Arts Therapies programs and services.

Sincerely,

President, Board of Directors

Chair, Government Affairs