



April 13, 2010

Dear Members of Congress:

The National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapists Associations (NCCATA) is proud to serve as a **Co-Sponsor of the Arts Advocacy Day 2010**. Founded in 1979, NCCATA is an alliance of professional associations dedicated to the advancement of the arts as therapeutic modalities. NCCATA represents over 15,000 individual members of six creative arts therapies associations including the fields of art therapy, dance/movement therapy, drama therapy, music therapy, poetry therapy and psychodrama.

Creative arts therapists are highly skilled human service professionals who use arts modalities and creative processes to help people of all ages in therapeutic, rehabilitative, community, and educational settings. Our services foster health, communication, self-expression and improve physical, emotional, cognitive, and social functioning. Each member association has established training standards including an approval and monitoring process, a code of ethics, standards of clinical practice, and a credentialing process.

Creative arts therapies are used to address America's most complex social issues including, but not limited to; Veterans with PTSD, Older Americans, and Individuals with Autism. Consumer access to **credentialed** creative arts therapists is essential in implementing successful, cost effective, healthcare reform. We request that Congress support the following:

- A Government Accountability Office (GAO) study to assess the current status of federal support of creative arts therapies and other arts in healthcare programs to improve the quality of healthcare services.
- Funding of research to increase access to creative arts therapies and other arts in healthcare programs addressing older Americans, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, autism and others through federal health programs.
- Inclusion of a Creative Arts Therapist entry within the Health Care Workforce definitions to identify these professionals and to reflect current practice standards.
- National health benefit exchange provisions that include individual artists and cultural non-profit organizations currently excluded from employer-based insurance plans.

Thank you for your support of the arts as an integral part of the nation's health and cultural well being.

Sincerely,

Laura Greenstone, M.S., LPC, ATR-BC
Past Chair, National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies Associations