

Legislative Recommendations Affordable Health Choices Act (Senate)

Below are three priority recommendations compiled by the **National Arts in Healthcare Advocacy Council** to ensure accessible healthcare services include innovative, cost effective art-based interventions, benefitting individuals from the young child to the aging adult. Research demonstrates that creative arts applications have a positive impact on quality of life and provide a marked benefit through cost savings potential and improved response to health and wellness programs.

➤ **Request to clarify qualifications of complementary and alternative medicine providers to reflect current practice standards**

Within the definitions of health professionals, we are concerned that "licensed complementary and alternative medicine providers" would unnecessarily prevent trained or credentialed providers from being recognized as well. A more inclusive definition, inserting "trained, credentialed or licensed..." would not restrict the many qualified professionals for which state licensure is not established or required.

Also within the definition of health professionals, we are requesting the addition of "creative arts therapists" to the health care workforce list, the health professionals list and the definition of mental health service professionals. Many credentialed creative arts therapists provide mental health counseling services.

➤ **Request to include Arts in Healthcare Provider and Creative Arts Therapist in definitions of Health Care Workforce**

As there is no current federal definition of the arts in healthcare workforce, these additions will identify the professionals who have direct patient care and support responsibilities, and the organizations that support these efforts.

"Arts in Healthcare Provider- The term 'arts in healthcare provider' includes medical and arts professionals, such as creative art therapists or artists-in-residence, trained or credentialed, who integrate the arts into healthcare and community settings for therapeutic, educational, wellness, and prevention purposes."

"Creative Arts Therapist – The term 'creative arts therapist' includes individuals with a national credential or professional designation in art therapy, dance/movement therapy, drama therapy, music therapy, poetry therapy, or psychodrama who are trained to provide therapeutic interventions in rehabilitative, medical, community, educational, and wellness settings."

➤ **Request for cultural agency representation on new federal health committees**

We are requesting the addition of the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museum and Library Services in the list of Federal agencies and departments serving as members of the proposed Interagency Working Group on Healthcare Quality and the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council.

These cultural agencies have a history of supporting the arts in healthcare and we believe their representatives can provide important federal perspectives and leadership within both the new Working Group and the Council.