



March 31, 2009

Dear Members of Congress:

The American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) is proud to be a returning National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day. The ADTA has approximately 1,200 members worldwide who enrich their communities by providing an opportunity for people of all ages and cultures to experience the healing benefits of movement and dance. Dance/Movement Therapy is the psychotherapeutic use of movement to further the emotional, cognitive, physical, and social integration of the individual. Dance/Movement therapists use nonverbal communication for assessment and intervention with clients. They are employed in a variety of mental and physical health care settings. They provide individual and group therapy for clients with issues such as autism, PTSD, ADHD, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, learning disabilities and Alzheimer's disease. In addition to clinical work, they are active in publishing, research, supervision, professional development training and teaching. Dance/movement therapists have extensive training and are graduates from Master's level programs across the nation. Dance/movement therapy was recognized as a counseling specialty by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) in 2000.

The ADTA is affiliated with the National Alliance of Pupil Service Organizations (NAPSO) which provides a variety of school-based prevention and intervention services to assist students in becoming effective learners. The organization also works with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) which advocates for national public policy that ensures the integration of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The ADTA joins with the National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies (NCCATA) to encourage Congress to explore ways to improve access to cost effective creative arts in healthcare services. Studies have shown that the creative arts can have a positive economic influence. Patients receiving creative arts therapy services indicate a shorter hospital stay, less medication, fewer complications and improved patient compliance.

The ADTA joins with Americans for the Arts to support increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as increased funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities. We also ask for Artists to be included in proposals for unemployment and healthcare benefits, specifically for part-time employees.

The ADTA wishes to thank Congress for the recent passage of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007. 70% of our members work in the mental health field so we greatly appreciate Congress' effort to increase mental health coverage and expansion of benefits. We continue to ask for support of the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2007 (S. 1332) which provides schools with the flexible use of funds to expand their current mental health programs, as well as your support of the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act (S 898/HR 1560) which seeks a \$125 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research and care programs.

Sincerely,

Robyn Flaum Cruz, Ph.D., ADTR
President

Robyne Stone Davis, MA, ADTR, LPC
Government Affairs Chairperson