

*Email sent to the American Art Therapy Association by our  
NorCATA President Fiona on 3/6/2021.*

I provided a link to the AATA's letter to President Biden during our last NorCATA board meeting. We are pleased that AATA has provided a letter that supports more recognition, attention and funding for art therapists and advocating for our marginalized populations. However, it was noted that there was no mention of people who identify as LGBTQIAA+. According to a comprehensive study from the Center for American Progress, LGBTQIAA+ people continue to face discrimination in their personal lives, in the workplace and the public sphere, and in their access to critical health care (<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2020/10/06/491052/state-lgbtq-community-2020/>)

Our Board reflected that many of our members who identify as LGBTQIAA+ remain sensitive to the support the AATA provided to Karen Pence in her advocacy for art therapy, and may feel further dismissed due to lack of acknowledgement to the challenges they face, and that are exacerbated during this pandemic. We believe its important to advocate for our members and clients who identify as LGBTQIAA+. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your feedback.

Fiona Ruddy, LMFT ATR  
NorCATA President 2021