

American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.

Treatment with the Help of the Horse



"Treatment with the Help of the Horse"

March 15, 2017

Dear Representative Sollman,

I am writing in response to the letter dated 3/10/17 submitted by the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon (OTA) in regards to HB 2723 that requests the removal of the exclusion of Hippotherapy from the Oregon Health Plan. In this letter they request

...the language of the bill be changed from "a form of physical therapy" to "a treatment modality used by physical therapists, occupational therapists, or speech language pathologists" in order to accurately reflect the practitioners of hippotherapy according to the American Hippotherapy Association.

For clarification American Hippotherapy Association, Inc (AHA, Inc) does not use the term "modality" in regards to Hippotherapy. A modality is a physical agent that is applied to a patient such as ultrasound, electrical stimulation, or hot packs. Rather patients actively respond to equine movement much as they would when their treatment involve a therapy ball or a treadmill. Therefore AHA, Inc refers to Hippotherapy as a **treatment strategy or treatment tool** that is incorporated as a patient's plan of care.

It is appropriate to include occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech language pathologists as this is consistent with the description of Hippotherapy from AHA, Inc

AHA, Inc encourages the use of uniform terminology. If you have any questions or would like further clarification about terminology in this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve McKenzie, MSPT
President
Board of Directors
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