

To the Oregon State Legislators,

My name is Mallory and I am an Occupational Therapist (OT) in Klamath Falls Oregon. A compact Occupational Therapy license will not only benefit practitioners in our state, but it will also help our patients remain safer. Under the OT Compact, Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants who are licensed in good standing in a Compact member state may practice in other Compact member states via a “compact privilege,” which is equivalent to a license. Meaning that OT’s in other states that are not in good standing will not be able to practice in Oregon, keeping our patients safer and enhancing public safety.

A compact license also helps support relocating military families, like those to Kinsley Field Airforce base in Klamath Falls. We have a therapist shortage in Klamath County and we have a 400+ person waitlist for outpatient therapy services in the clinic I work at, which is the only outpatient Occupational Therapy clinic available in all of Klamath County. Having a compact license will allow other compact licensed OT’s to provide much needed services in our rural community.

We need this, our rural communities need this, we need to be able to meet the demands of an aging population. An Occupational Therapy compact license is how we solve part of our healthcare needs.

I fully support Oregon becoming a member of the Occupational Therapy Compact.

Thank you,

Dr Mallory Apel, OTD