

To: Members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care.

From: Sara Gaffney, OTR/L

Date: 02/13/2025

Subject: Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact/ HB 2357

Dear Members, I hope this letter finds you well. I am a member of the Occupational therapy community and your constituent. I work Springfield, OR at G Street Integrated Health. I moved to Oregon from Georgia in 2020 and hold a license in Oregon exclusively, though I have family that live in multiple states.

I have been an occupational therapist working in multiple settings for 5 years and have been serving our community since 2020. I plan to continue helping clients through my work as an occupational therapist.

The Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon (OTAO) has been busy working to prepare for the 2025 Legislative session and has advocated for HB 2357 to be considered. As a member of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care, we expect this bill to be one that you consider this session, so I am writing to express my thoughts on it.

The OT Licensure Compact is a pivotal initiative that enhances licensure portability and empowers member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through effective sharing of licensure information. Previous interstate compacts have successfully lowered barriers and administrative duties for practitioners seeking to provide services in multiple states.

I believe the OT Compact will bring key benefits to consumers, members, and the profession by allowing for continuity of care for clients when moving or traveling, increasing options for occupational therapists who must relocate, and strengthening the existing state licensure system. As an occupational therapist who has only held a license in Oregon, I see this impacting me directly by improving confidence in my ability to practice in states closer to family in the case that I am needed to support them without the additional financial burden of getting and maintaining licensure in multiple states.

Importantly, the OT Compact upholds the authority of each member state to regulate the profession, requiring all practitioners to comply with the laws and scope of practice of the state where they work.

I strongly urge you to support the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact/HB 2357. It is essential that our lawmakers prioritize the health and wellbeing of all Oregonians, which includes access to occupational therapy services. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your service and dedication to our community. I hope to see you continue to support positive changes that reflect the needs and concerns of your constituents.

Sincerely, Sara (Betsy) Gaffney, OTR/L

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