

Submitter: Johanka Stavenik Iacolucci
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2357

Dear Andrea Salinas
From Johanka Iacolucci
Date 2-18-25
Subject: Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact/ HB 2357

Dear Andrew Salinas, I hope this letter finds you well. I am a member of the [OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTITIONER community and your constituent. I have been an OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST working in a hospital acute care setting for 10 years and have been serving our community since 2014 and plan to continue doing so for many more years to come. Healthcare has taken a great hit after COVID and therefore we need all the support we can get moving forward to provide the best patient/client care.

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 OTAO, 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 [INCREASING MOBILITY FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND ASSISTANTS/EXPANDING ACCESS TO CARE FOR CLIENTS/ENSURING CONTINUITY OF CARE WHEN MOVING OR TRAVELING/HELPING MILITARY PERSONNEL AND SPOUSES MAINTAIN LICENSURE DURING RELOCATIONS/STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING STATE LICENSURE SYSTEM]. As an occupational therapist who works in a hospital setting, I see this impacting me directly by providing opportunity to give or receive support within the hospital system where the ground work for recovery and decision making on where healthcare consumers are then discharged occurs. With the way many insurance companies are currently denying post hospitalization rehabilitation care, it is imperative that our clients receive the best and most frequent therapy services in order to optimize

recovery and have the best health care outcomes upon discharge. The best way to achieve this is through the use of standardized assessments, best practices protocols and ensuring practitioners are up to date on their continuing education that reference their work setting.

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, Johanka Iacolucci