

Submitter: Alisa Sheth  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2357

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,  
I am a member of the Occupational Therapy community and Hillsboro resident. I also work in Hillsboro at Pacific University near the Hillsboro Medical Center.

I have been an occupational therapist for 20 years, and have been serving our Oregon community as an occupational therapy educator since 2019. I help support the future generations of occupational therapy practitioners that work everyday to support the health and well-being of our communities. I also support our Area Health Education Center Scholars Program that supports healthcare students interested in living and working in our rural communities, which desperately need better access to services such as occupational therapy in schools, hospitals, clinics, home health, and long-term care.

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 supporting practitioners to work in multiple states, particularly around our rural border areas. The compact will also expand access to care for our communities and make Oregon a more attractive place to live and work with increased flexibility in job opportunities. As an occupational therapist who works in higher education, I see this impacting me directly by supporting our program to enroll the best and brightest future healthcare professionals and supporting them in Oregon after graduation.

Notably, 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.