

February 19, 2025
Chair Nosse
900 Court St. NE, S-411
Salem, OR 97301
RE: **HB 2357**
Position: **Support**

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Javadi, Vice Chair Nelson, and members of the committee,

I am writing to you as a licensed occupational therapist in Curry County, Oregon to express my support for HB 2357, which seeks to establish an occupational therapy state licensure compact. There are many different and compelling arguments for passing this bill, which have been cited in many of my colleagues' testimonies. As a practitioner working in a rural town on the border of Oregon and California, the most compelling argument for me has to do with increasing patients' access to care. In Curry County, I have witnessed firsthand a lack of healthcare workers in these rural border towns and the negative impact that this has on the health and wellness of residents. If occupational therapists have the ability to hold and pay for a single license that can be used in various bordering states, counties like Curry may finally have the therapists it needs to adequately serve its residents. Additionally, the Compact will enable state regulatory boards to better protect consumers via effective sharing of licensure information.

Overall, HB 2357 offers a clear and organized path to improved patient care across state lines. These benefits will especially impact rural and otherwise underserved patients in our communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of this bill,

Alexa Hanson Lahti, OTD, OTR/L
Occupational Therapy