



Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

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Governor
Mike DeWine
Executive Director
Missy Anthony

Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 7
Occupational Therapy (OT) Compact
House Health Committee
March 1, 2021

Chair Scott Lipps, Vice Chair Adam Holmes, and Ranking Minority Member Allison Russo, on behalf of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers (OTPTAT) Board's Occupational Therapy Section, please accept this testimony in support of Senate Bill 7, the Occupational Therapy Compact.

The mission of the Ohio OTPTAT Board is to actively promote and protect the health of Ohioans through effective regulation of the professions of occupational therapy, physical therapy, athletic training, orthotics, prosthetics, and pedorthics. The five members of the occupational therapy section are listed below:

Occupational Therapy Section

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Term</u>
Beth Ann Ball, OT	Worthington	2021	3 rd
Joanne Phillips Estes, OT, Ph.D	Cincinnati	2022	1 st
Mary Beth Lavey, OTA, Chair	Bowling Green	2021	3 rd
Anissa Siefert, OT	New Washington	2022	2 nd
Melissa Van Allen, OT, Secretary	Columbus	2023	2 nd

Similar to other licensing compacts, the OT Compact will increase the ability to work across state lines in a responsible way to the benefit of members of the military, their spouses, traveling therapists, and for utilization in telehealth, for example. The OT Compact will require each person who applies for a compact privilege to have undergone an FBI background check and allow all member Boards to share important information related to public protection.

The Occupational Therapy Compact is one of the newest licensure compacts on the horizon. I had the privilege of serving on the OT Compact Advisory Group which was led by the Council of State Governments and included representation from the American Occupational Therapy Association, the National Board of Certification of Occupational Therapy, occupational therapy practitioners from across the country, and members and executive directors of several regulatory boards. Using other professional licensing compact experiences as a model, the OT Compact was developed and released late last year for potential adoption by states. Ten states must pass the OT Compact legislation for it to become active. With the passage of this legislation, Ohio would likely be one of those first states, giving the OTPTAT Board a seat at the table for adoption of rules and discussion of operations issues that will need to be addressed.

As telehealth has so suddenly expanded in this time of the COVID-19 emergency, the need to work across state lines has greatly expanded. An example would be a family whose children are in a remote

learning environment who chooses to spend a month in a different state. If that student is receiving occupational therapy services remotely, the practitioner's Ohio license would not allow them to serve that student while residing in a different state. The OT Compact presents a safe approach to working across state lines that retains the state board's ability to protect Ohio residents while easing access to the occupational therapy practitioner to be able to practice in a more mobile way.

As members of a combined Board, the occupational therapy section was able to lean on the knowledge of the physical therapy section and the experience of the PT Compact, as it was being discussed at the same time the OT Compact was developed. The occupational therapy section quickly saw the benefits to Ohio license holders and consumers that this licensure compact has to offer and supports its passage. The OTPTAT Board regularly receives inquiries from licensed occupational therapy professionals who are interested in seeing Ohio join the compact.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Missy Anthony, Executive Director at 614-466-3474 or Missy.Anthony@otptat.ohio.gov or any of the members of the OT Section at your convenience.