

June 13, 2017

The Honorable Scott Oelslager  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Oelslager,

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the national professional association representing the interests of more than 235,000 occupational therapists, students of occupational therapy, and therapy assistants. The practice of occupational therapy is science-driven, evidence-based, and enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by promoting health and minimizing the functional effects of illness, injury, and disability.

AOTA appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 49 – State Operating Budget. We have significant concerns about the proposed budget with regards to the consolidation of the current Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletics Trainers Board (OTPTAT) with the State Board of Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics (OPP).

We strongly believe the consolidation of the OTPTAT Board and the OPP Board puts the public at risk and will not result in adequate regulation and support of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants across Ohio. By limiting the number of board members, the state effectively reduces the subject matter expertise of the board. This would put the public at risk since it is not in anyone's best interest to regulate a profession with limited board expertise. In addition, the OTPTAT Board is a fully sustainable board which operates solely on licensure fees of the three professions. Consolidating this board with another will not reduce state operational costs and will not be a cost saving measure for taxpayers.

AOTA feels that the current structure of the OTPTAT Board is sufficient to meet the needs of the citizens of Ohio and the needs of the professions. We strongly urge you to amend the language to eliminate the idea of board consolidation. Please contact me at [cvogeley@aota.org](mailto:cvogeley@aota.org) if you have questions or need additional information about AOTA's comments.

Sincerely,



Chrissy Vogeley  
Manager, State Affairs

Cc: Marc Schaffer, OTR/L  
President, Ohio Occupational Therapy Association



