

Kristina Roegner
State Senator
27th Senate District



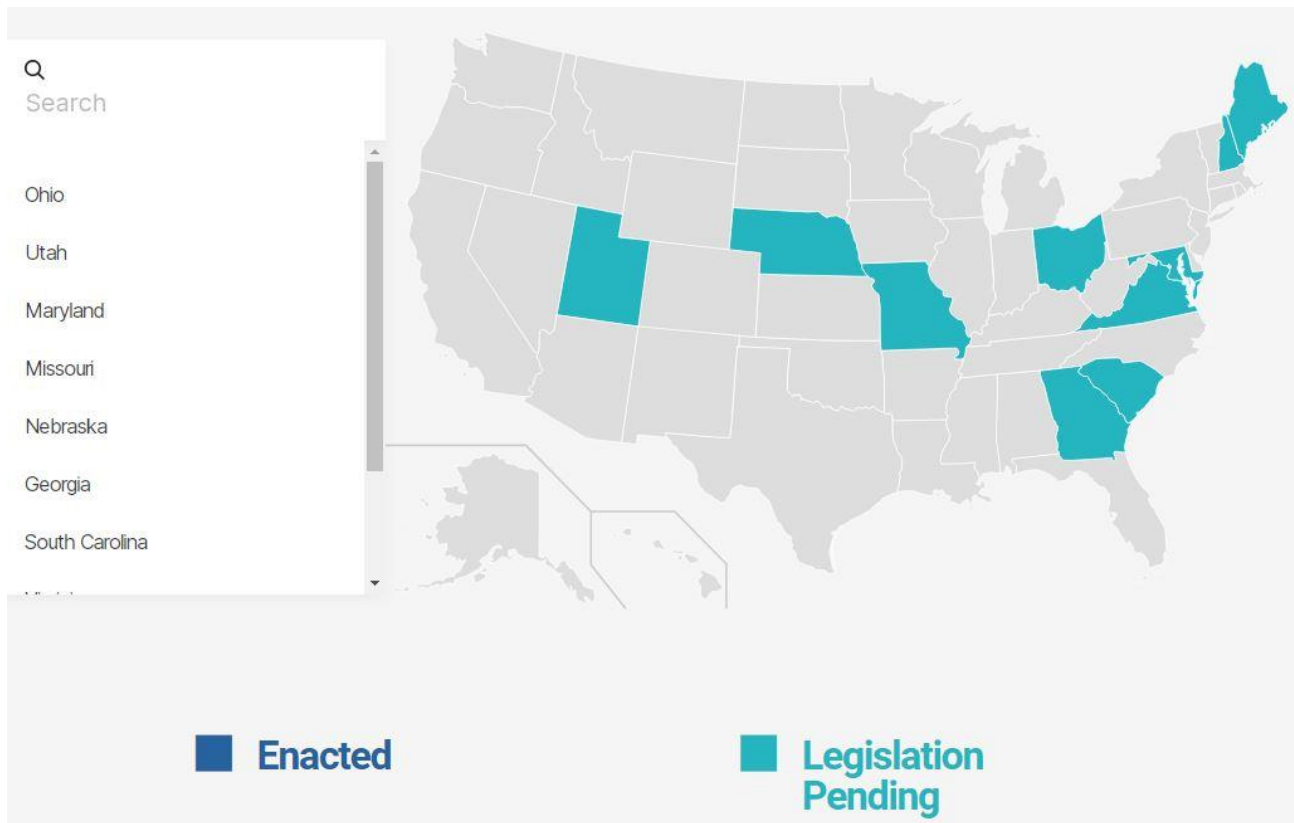
Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 7
Ohio House Health Committee
March 2, 2021

Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 7, which upon enactment would join Ohio to the “Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.” This formal agreement between member states aims to facilitate interstate practice of occupational therapy and improve public access to occupational therapy services. This legislation is a reintroduction of SB389 from the 133rd General Assembly, and passed the Senate unanimously during the 134th General Assembly.

The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact still is in its formative stage. Just late last year, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) approved model legislation developed by the Council of State Governments (CSG) to establish the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. Similar to the Physical Therapy Compact, under the Occupational Therapy Compact, Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapist Assistants who are licensed in good standing in a Compact member state may practice in other Compact member states via a “compact Privilege”.

The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact will take effect once 10 states have enacted authorizing legislation. As you can see from the map¹, Ohio would be one of the first 10 states; leading the way for increased access to care for patients and mobility for Occupational Therapists and OT Assistants .

¹ <https://otcompact.org/compact-map/>



Ohio is home to approximately 6,650 licensed occupational therapists and 5,170 licensed occupational therapy assistants. Occupational Therapy (OT) practitioners work in a variety of settings ranging from hospitals and long term care facilities to schools and in client homes. Their clients range in age from toddlers to senior citizens. Occupational therapy practitioners assist their clients through the therapeutic use of everyday activities, or occupations. They are highly trained healthcare practitioners that adhere to high standards of education and clinical practice.

It should be noted that licensees must complete whatever continuing education is required in their home state – in the case of Ohio, all occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant licensees must complete 20 hours of continuing education each two-year licensure term. Furthermore according to the Compact, practitioners must adhere to the scope of practice in whichever state they are practicing.

While the OT compact is good for licensees, it is also a positive development for clients and consumers. Having more eligible providers will help address access issues and increase support to underserved communities and populations. Further, the data system maintained by the OT Licensure Compact will assist the licensure board with enforcement thereby ensuring public safety.

In closing, passage of Senate Bill 7 puts Ohio at the forefront of establishing the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. It has the support of the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association, the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board, national organizations including AOTA, NBCOT, and CSG, and many other stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.