



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 5
Physical Therapy (PT) Compact
Senate Health Committee
January 27, 2021

Chair Steve Huffman, Vice Chair Niraj Antani, and Ranking Minority Member Nickie Antonio, on behalf of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers (OTPTAT) Board's Physical Therapy Section, please accept this testimony in support of Senate Bill 5, the Physical 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 nine members of the physical therapy section are listed below:

Physical Therapy Section

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Term</u>
Mario Baker, PT	Bowling Green	2022	1st
Craig Campbell, PT	Leesburg	2023	1st
Anthony Ganim, PT	Hilliard	2021	1st
Erin Hofmeyer, PT, Chair	Cleves	2023	3rd
Timothy McIntire, PT, Secretary	Dayton	2023	3rd
Karen McIntyre, PT	Avon	2021	1st
C.J. Miller, PT, AT	Marengo	2022	3rd
Linda Pax Lowes, PT	Columbus	2021	1st
Jennifer Wissinger, PT	Pataskala	2023	1st

The PT 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. A compact privilege is relatively easy to obtain via the PT Compact website, easing access for the physical therapy practitioner. The PT Compact itself requires all states who are members to conduct background checks and share information related to discipline, ensuring that all member Boards have similar standards related to public protection in place.

The Physical Therapy Section of the OTPTAT Board has carefully monitored the PT Compact's progress from its inception and development in 2014, to its enactment on April 25, 2017, to its first issuance of privileges to practice on July 9, 2018. According to the PT Compact Commission, approximately 200 compact privilege are issued each month. A total of 1,826 privileges were issued in January – September 2020.

As the PT Compact is enacted in more states (currently 29 total), the Board has fielded inquiries from therapists interested in seeing Ohio join. In particular, the PT Compact will assist physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who live and work in border states and who have patients who live across the

border. The PT Compact will increase access to physical therapy for patients while keeping appropriate protections in place for the public.

The bill may result in a slight loss of revenue to the Board, as there will be fewer applicants for licensure by endorsement from other states, but the impact should be manageable. The Board also anticipates some one-time implementation costs related to programming in eLicense Ohio. The Board strongly encourages passage of SB 5 as soon as possible. This bill has no opponents, and speedy passage will allow the Board to get to work on implementation, which is expected to take six months to a year. As telehealth expands during this COVID-19 emergency, this compact is more in demand.

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 PT Section at your convenience.