

December 7, 2020

Dan Logsdon
Director
National Center for Interstate Compacts
The Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. Logsdon:

On behalf of the Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association (TNOTA), I write to express our strong support for the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact (OT Compact). TNOTA is the state-level membership organization for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Tennessee, representing over 700 occupational therapy professionals and students.

Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel, the OT Compact will increase licensure portability while allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states.

We recognize that the OT Compact will benefit consumers, our members and the profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants;
- Increasing access to care for clients;
- Facilitating continuity of care when clients or practitioners relocate or travel to another state;
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating; and
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

Importantly, the OT Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the profession. Practitioners utilizing the OT Compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing, including adhering to that state's scope of practice.

With these benefits in mind, TNOTA is excited to endorse the OT Compact.

We look forward to supporting the OT Compact in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cindy DeRuitter Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L
President, Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association