



TOTA

TEXAS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

1106 CLAYTON LANE, SUITE 516W • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78723 • PHONE 512-454-TOTA (8682)

12/7/2020

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 Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA), I write to express our strong support for the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact (OT Compact). TOTA is the state-level membership organization for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in TX], representing over 17,000 licensed professionals. The mission of the TOTA is to be responsive to the professional development, information needs, and educational requirements of its members; to advance and improve the practice of occupational therapy for the benefit of the consumers; and to anticipate and respond to the organizational, political, economic, and social features of the health care delivery system at the local, state and national levels.

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 maintain their certifications when relocating; and more easily.
- 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.

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With these benefits in mind, TOTA is excited to endorse the OT Compact and is actively working on such legislation.

We look forward to supporting the OT Compact in TX.

Sincerely,

Jason Stark, OT

President, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

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