



OHIO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

February 4, 2021

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 Ohio Occupational Therapy Association (OOTA), I write to express our strong support for the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact (OT Compact). Ohio is home to approximately 6,650 licensed occupational therapists and 5,170 licensed occupational therapy assistants and OOTA is the state level membership organization representing and advocating for those practitioners.

We recognize the value of the OT Compact to 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, OOTA is excited to endorse the OT Compact.

We are pleased to report that the OT Compact in Ohio has been successfully introduced this session as Senate Bill 7 and passed out of the Senate with a unanimous 32-0 vote on February 3, 2021. We anticipate continued success and look forward to supporting the OT Compact within the Ohio House for successful passage.

Sincerely,



Rebecca L. Finni DHS OTR/L

Rebecca L. Finni, DHS, OTR/L, RAC-CT
President
Ohio Occupational Therapy Association