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From: Cate LePage <catelepage@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2024 3:12 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Cc: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.
Subject: H7945- PRO

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3/24/24

Dear Chairperson Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,
Thank you for your service.

My name is Catherine LePage and I am an Occupational Therapist of 23 years working in Rhode Island in outpatient rehabilitation.

I am writing in support of H7945 The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.
Thank you for the opportunity to share my view on this important legislation.

I believe this bill is good for RI. It will:

- streamline the application process for those seeking practice privileges in other states through a centralized system
- allow greater mobility for Occupational Therapy providers between states or working in more than one state
- Support military members who are relocating or others who change their primary state of residence frequently
- Facilitate options for telehealth for those in more rural areas or who are homebound or living in border communities in our nearby states
- improve information sharing among member states in regulating Occupational Therapy practice
- preserve Rhode Island's current licensure law, rules and regulations, and authority over Occupational Therapy practice

The Occupational Therapy Compact has the potential to address the workforce crisis in health care by making it easier to obtain a privilege to practice in RI. It supports providers and encourages talented individuals to become part of Rhode Island's rehabilitation team.

More importantly it will offer increased access to needed Occupational Therapy Services for our clients. In my personal experience, I had a patient who would spend part of the year in Rhode Island and part of the year in another state. I could have provided telehealth services to him while he was in another state to keep his continuity of care better, if this compact had been in place then.

So far 28 States have enacted OT compact legislation. 7 have introduced legislation, and several others are considering or beginning to introduce legislation including our neighbors in the Tri-State area and New England.

Please help us to make Rhode Island the 29th state by approving H7945.

Thank you for your consideration,

Catherine LePage, OTR/L, CHT
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