



Lifespan

Delivering health with care.

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David A. Balasco, Esq.
Vice President

March 26, 2024

Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chair, House Corporations
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H7945 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Occupational
Therapy Licensure Compact**

Dear Chair Solomon:

We write in support of H7945 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. This bill would create the occupational therapy licensure compact, that would allow licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants to practice in all states that join the compact, while also removing the need for practitioners to get an individual license in each state where they want to practice.

Effectuating compacts like this is critical to the ongoing workforce development needs of Rhode Island's healthcare providers. Like other compacts, to ensure meaningful reciprocity from the beginning, a minimum number of states are required to enact compact legislation, which in this case is 10 states. Importantly, with 28 states already passing occupational therapy licensure compact enabling legislation, Rhode Island would be joining a fully operational compact.

The benefits provided are those urgently needed across our system, namely: (1) the ability to practice across state lines thus improving consumer access and enhancing mobility of occupational therapy practitioners; (2) improving continuity of care for our patients; (3) and accomplishing this while also preserving and strengthening each state's licensure system.

Thank you for considering Lifespan's support of this proposed bill and we respectfully request the committee's favorable action to assist us in addressing our workforce shortages.

Sincerely,

David Balasco
Vice-President, Government Relations