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From: Lise Faulise <lise.faulise@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2024 8:10 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Cc: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.
Subject: In Support of H7945- OT Compact bill

March 26,2024

Dear Chairperson McNamara, Members of the House Corporations Committee and Representative Craven,

I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 7945-OT Interstate Compact Bill

I urge you **to support H7945** for several reasons:

As a practicing Occupational Therapist specializing in pediatrics for 38 years, I have personally experienced the challenges of relocating and needing to secure additional licenses in other states. I believe that allowing licensed OT's and OTAs to apply for a privilege to practice in all states that join the compact would help to improve:

1. **Workforce shortage issues** - School departments, community programs, including early intervention and head start programs are experiencing a shortage of pediatric OT's. *Enhancing mobility* for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants by way of the interstate compact can help to reduce workforce shortages.
2. Many of the pediatric positions are seasonal or short-term, for example lasting only a school year, covering a maternity leave, or a summer. Currently, Occupational Therapy providers must obtain a license in each state in which they work. *The application, review and license issuance process can be cumbersome and lengthy-* on the order of weeks or even months. This often limits opportunities in relation to employment when turnaround time is short.

3. Facilitating continuity of care when clients relocate or travel to another state - The

OT Compact would reduce the length of time needed to secure a license in the state where a family relocates in order to continue to provide care, directly (if within the Tri-state region) or via telehealth. Continuity of care issues especially impact families relocating due to a change in employment secondary to seasonal mobility in/out of Rhode Island . Oftentimes these families include some of the neediest children who are especially vulnerable to gaps in services related to relocation.

I urge you to please consider the benefits of House bill 7945- The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

Respectfully submitted,

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