

H7945- PRO

March 25, 2024

Dear Chairperson Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

My name is Nancy Dorsey, and I am an Occupational Therapist of 42 years working in Rhode Island in pediatrics and now home care settings.

I am writing in support of H7945 The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

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 - especially considering our close proximity to MA and CT borders
- 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 receive referrals for my home care clients from a small business based in Massachusetts. I have had to limit the referrals I can service to RI residents due to the cumbersome nature of obtaining another OT license in another state (MA). If I were much younger, I probably would have taken the steps to obtain such license, but I am near the end of my career and choosing to only work part time now. If I had access to this compact license opportunity, I could be accepting referrals to help out the many home care residents who are in need of OT, but live in MA.

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,

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