



MINNESOTA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE

Protecting the Public

Date: February 20, 2024

To: Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

From: Christina Bourland, MHA, OTR/L Executive Director, MN Board of Occupational Therapy Practice.

Subject: Support for: HF 2117/ SF 1572 OT Licensure Compact Bill

I am writing as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Occupational Therapy Practice (Board) on behalf of the Board in support of HF 2117/SF1572. This bill introduces an occupational therapy interstate licensure compact (OT Compact) to the State of Minnesota. The Board supports Minnesota's participation in the OT compact.

The Board has reviewed the proposal, participated in discussions regarding the compact, and believes the OT compact supports its mission of protection of the public. Practitioners seeking to practice in Minnesota would be issued a compact privilege and agree to adhere to State of Minnesota regulations while providing care to Minnesotans.

Provisions within the OT Compact allow the public to access OT practitioners in locations accessible to them, even if in an adjacent member state. The public may continue to receive services from the same care team ensuring continuity in care. Compact state members maintain disciplinary information within the interstate compact data system allowing greater transparency for adverse licensure actions.

For areas of the state with limited access to OT practitioners, telehealth options become more available through the OT Compact due to the ability to provide services more readily from a remote location. Additionally, military personnel and their family members may relocate more easily with the ability to seek a compact privilege in member states.

The Board anticipates initial startup costs for database development. Ongoing costs may include expenditures related to attendance at Compact meetings, issuance of compact privileges, participation costs, and maintenance of data systems. The ongoing costs are expected to be offset by the compact privilege fee.

The Board supports implementation of the Compact in Minnesota and stands available to answer questions or concerns.