

To: Alaska House Labor and Commerce Committee

March 5, 2021

Re: Support - HB 99: "An Act relating to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; relating to the practice of physical therapy; and relating to the practice of occupational therapy."

Dear Committee members,

On behalf of AOTA, I am writing to you in support of HB 99: An Act relating to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; relating to the practice of physical therapy; and relating to the practice of occupational therapy.

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the national professional association representing the interests of more than 213,000 occupational therapists, students of occupational therapy, and occupational therapy assistants. The practice of occupational therapy is science-driven, evidence-based, and enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by promoting health and minimizing the functional effects of illness, injury, and disability.

HB 99, if enacted, would make clarifying changes to the occupational therapy practice act. Specifically the legislation updates references to the education requirements for occupational therapy practitioners and the entity that recognizes an examination an occupational therapy practitioner must pass to be licensed, as well as clarifies eligibility requirements for licensure for foreign-educated applicants.

AOTA has worked with state occupational therapy associations for more than 40 years to advocate for state licensure laws in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. We strongly support the role of state government in regulating the practice of occupational therapy and are pleased to support these proposed changes and urge the committee to pass HB 99.

Please contact me at 301-652-6611 x1921 or via email at mpudeler@aota.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Meghan Pudeler
Manager, State Affairs
American Occupational Therapy Association

CC: Alaska Occupational Therapy Association