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Sponsor Statement

HB 173 (Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact)

"An Act relating to occupational therapist licensure; relating to occupational therapy assistant licensure; and relating to an occupational therapist licensure compact."

Occupational therapy is important healthcare that can be hard to get in Alaska. We only have one training program for occupational therapists in our state, at the University of Alaska Anchorage. We don't always have enough occupational therapists for every Alaskan, everywhere.

Occupational therapists help people learn to safely do things they do every day.

One person might see an occupational therapist because they have trouble eating and swallowing. Another might see an occupational therapist because they had a stroke that makes it hard to use one of their arms, and they want to be able to get dressed on their own again. An elder might go to an occupational therapist because their balance is getting worse and they want to avoid a fall.

This bill enacts the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact ("OT Compact").

The OT Compact is an interstate compact that lets occupational therapists work in different states more easily.

The OT Compact will encourage occupational therapists to move to Alaska for work and help Alaskans get occupational therapy more easily.

I hope to earn your support of this legislation.

If you need more information about it, please contact Keenan Miller in my office. He may be reached at Keenan.Miller@akleg.gov or (907) 465-5141.