



Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

Support for HB 2723 regarding prohibition of the exclusion of hippotherapy as a service provided in medical assistance.

The Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon (OTAO) supports HB 2723 and requests the language of the bill be changed from “a form of physical therapy” to “a treatment modality used by physical therapists, occupational therapists, or speech language pathologists” in order to accurately reflect the practitioners of hippotherapy according to the American Hippotherapy Association.

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) have recognized hippotherapy or therapy involving equine movement and the equine environment in letters of support since 2000. Oregon now has the opportunity to recognize hippotherapy as a qualified service provided in medical assistance.

The positive results of hippotherapy are well documented. Hippotherapy is an evidence based practice and should be an available tool for practitioners in order to ensure the best outcomes for Oregon residents. The OTAO is in full support of HB 2723 with the requested change in language.

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