

Meeting the Need for Rural Practitioners:

Including Occupational Therapy in Oregon's State Loan Repayment Program



The Problem

Currently, many Oregon rural counties have few to no OT practitioners⁶ leaving rural populations underserved or forced to incur excessive health care spending in order to commute to metropolitan areas.



The Bill : HB 2751

The Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon (OTAO) is presenting a bill to include occupational therapists as a qualified candidate for the Oregon Partnership State Loan Repayment (SLRP) Program.⁷ It could increase access to OT services by incentivizing OT practitioners to practice in rural areas to meet the significant need for OT services in rural communities.



Evidence of OT's Value

- Occupational therapy is associated with lower readmission rates.⁹
- Occupational therapy interventions are cost-effective in treating or preventing injury, improving health outcomes, and shortening hospital stays.⁸
- Occupational therapy provides cost-effective treatment for chronic diseases.¹
- Occupational therapy provides cost-effective treatment for older adults.^{2,4}
- Occupational therapy reduces nursing home admissions.^{3,10}



Your Voice

Email OTAOLegislativeCommittee@gmail.com

- To share your story or support
- To get an email template to send to your representative

References:

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