



Occupational Therapy  
Association of Oregon

### **Support for SB 5523 regarding funding of Occupational Therapy Licensing Board (OTLB)**

The Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon (OTAO) supports funding for the OTLB as the crucial licensing body for all occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) practicing in Oregon. The OTLB is incredibly efficient at issuing licenses, answering practitioner questions, reviewing public complaints, and monitoring OTA supervision to ensure the best care possible is provided to Oregon residents.

Having a discipline specific board ensures public safety with swift resolution of concerns and expedites the licensing process. This allows practitioners in Oregon to start work in a timely manner, which helps to secure job offers and maximizes healthcare and workforce productivity. In other states such as Washington, a 3 month wait for licensure through the Department of Health is common. The specialized OTLB in Oregon provides practitioner licenses as little as 3 days.

The OTAO is in full support of continuing to fund a discipline specific OTLB given it's history of excellent service and fiscal responsibility.

#### **OTAO Legislative Committee**

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