Dear Massachusetts Occupational Therapy Practitioners,

We are writing to ask your support in advocating for H.352/S.187, An Act Relative to the Occupational Therapy Interstate Licensure Compact. These bills would allow OTs and OTAs in Massachusetts to practice across state lines via the "compact privilege". You can learn more about the interstate licensure compact and its benefits <u>here</u>. This legislation was introduced in June, 2023 and referred to the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, but we have seen *no action since the hearing in February*.

We are calling upon Massachusetts residents whose legislators are on the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure to write their legislators urging support for these bills. You can find out who your legislators are <u>here</u>. To determine if they are on the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, you can navigate to their bio page on the <u>malegislature.gov</u> website and click on the "Committees" tab under their picture. You can also look <u>here</u> for a complete list of Committee members.

If your legislator is on the Committee, we ask that you write them a short email requesting their support for this critical legislation. Your email should include:

- 1. Identify yourself, your credentials, and, if desired, years of experience
- 2. A request for support for these bills
- 3. A few sentences outlining why these bills are important. Key points here are:
 - i. Inclusion in the interstate licensure compact would allow OTPs in MA to reach a wider range of clients, particularly in rural and medically underserved communities.
 - ii. Increase continuity of care for clients with high residential mobility (i.e. military families, individuals and families experiencing homelessness)
 - iii. Will not change state licensure requirements.
- 4. You can refer to <u>this</u> AOTA Fact Sheet for Legislators to learn more (or even attach it to your email to your legislator!)

We thank you for your continued advocacy to support legislation in our state!

Please reach out to your MAOT Co-Government Relations Representatives, Mary O'Donnell and Karen Hefler, with any questions.