



The Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association

370 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

www.connota.org

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2012

SB-78 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM.

Dear Members of the Commerce Committee,

As President of the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association, I am writing in support of efforts to encourage students graduating from public and private colleges and universities in Connecticut to remain in the state and find work. There is currently a shortage of occupational therapists to meet the demand for the range of services offered through occupational therapy. I also request that school of occupational therapy specifically be included in this bill, as follows.

For the purposes of this section, "health care training school" means of medical or dental school, chiropractic college, school or college of optometry, school or college of chiropody or podiatry, school or college of natureopathy, school of dental hygiene, school of physical therapy, school of occupational therapy or any other school or institution giving instruction in the healing arts.

What Is Occupational Therapy?

In its simplest terms, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes. Occupational therapy services typically include

- an individualized evaluation, during which the client/family and occupational therapist determine the person's goals,
- customized intervention to improve the person's ability to perform daily activities and reach the goals, and
- an outcomes evaluation to ensure that the goals are being met and/or make changes to the intervention plan.

Occupational therapy services may include comprehensive evaluations of the client's home and other environments (e.g., workplace, school), recommendations for adaptive equipment and training in its use, and guidance and education for family members and caregivers. Occupational therapy practitioners have a holistic perspective, in which the focus is on adapting the environment to fit the person, and the person is an integral part of the therapy team.

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this proposed legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 203-430-0712 or @ president@connota.org should you require additional information.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Goszewski, MSM, OTR