

#2892

June 15, 2011  
Judith Pachter Schulder  
State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure  
P.O Box 2649  
Harrisburg Pa 17105

Dear Ms. Pachter-Schulder,

I am an Occupational Therapist (OT) licensed to practice in the state of Pennsylvania. I am writing in response to the proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy licensure. I do not believe that the proposed changes will benefit the practice of occupational therapy in our state or the patients who receive our services. These changes are more stringent than what is required by the National Board of Certification for Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). It appears the new criteria for maintaining an OT license in Pennsylvania would rely heavily on academia. Most therapists choose to work directly with patient care because they are good at relating to and encouraging people in need. Requiring therapists to write a professional paper, speak at a conference and/or supervise a student will not result in better therapists. The new proposal will add another layer of strict regulations and significant fees that will discourage many high school graduates from pursuing the field of OT and currently employed occupational therapists will find the monetary and time expenditures overwhelming.

I continue to be in favor of continuing education and competency requirements however I do not want them to be such a hardship that we lose experienced therapists and discourage young people from entering the field.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.



Beth George, OTR/L  
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