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 practitioners 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. 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.
- Occupational therapy interventions are cost-effective in treating or preventing injury, improving health outcomes, and shortening hospital stays.
- Occupational therapy provides cost-effective treatment for chronic diseases.
- Occupational therapy provides cost-effective treatment for older adults.
- Occupational therapy reduces nursing home admissions.

Your Voice
Email OTAOLegislativeCommittee@gmail.com
- To share your story or support
- To get an email template to send to your representative

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References:


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