



# NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE

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SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY 16, 2025

TESTIMONY OF JANAЕ HUGHES  
NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE  
SENATE BILL NO. 2146

Chairman Wobbema, members of the Committee,

I am Janae Hughes, Chair of the North Dakota Board of Occupational Therapy Practice (the Board), and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Board. The Board supports Senate Bill 2146 to join the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. The benefits include, but are not limited to, occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistants to practice in all states that join the compact, increased support relocating military spouses, and increased mobility for OT practitioners especially those who work near state lines.

Upon approval of joining the OT Compact, the Board will need to implement additional fees for the members who also join to cover the compact fees as well as Board administrative fees. For this reason, additional legislative changes are needed if the OT Compact is adopted. Section 43-40.1-03(3) on page 5, line 15 of SB 2146 provides that member states may charge a fee for granting a compact privilege. The Board's enabling statute in N.D.C.C. § 43-40-07 grants the Board the ability to prescribe specific fees by rule. The compact privilege fee would need to be added to the list of fees in N.D.C.C. § 43-40-07 to be consistent with the OT Compact and give the Board the specific authority to prescribe the compact privilege fee by rule. The Board therefore respectfully requests that N.D.C.C. § 43-40-07 be amended, in conjunction with adopting the OT Compact, to add the compact privilege fee to the list of fees that the Board is authorized to prescribe by rule.

We, at the Board, encourage your votes to support the OT Interstate Compact.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janae Hughes, OTR/L".

Janae Hughes, OTR/L  
NDBOTP Chair

