



**SB 2146 Legislative Testimony (Neutral)
Senate Workforce Development Committee
January 16, 2025**

Chair Wobbema and Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

My name is Carl Sims and I am a Deputy Director for the National Center for Interstate Compacts at The Council of State Governments (CSG). CSG provides nonpartisan policy support to states on interstate compacts.

The Occupational Therapy Compact (OT Compact) is an interstate compact, or a contract among states, providing Occupational Therapists (OTs) and occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) a voluntary and streamlined pathway to practice in other compact member states. Like other interstate licensure compacts, the OT Compact is designed to improve access to services, enhance the mobility of practitioners, support relocating military spouses, and improve continuity of care.

The OT Compact establishes uniform criteria for an OT or OTA to be authorized for multi-state practice in a compact member state. Practitioners who meet the uniform requirements, such as having an active license and residence in a compact member state, are permitted to obtain a compact privilege to practice, which is equivalent to a license in another state. An OT or OTA using a privilege to practice must follow the specific laws and regulations of the state they are providing services in.

The compact additionally strengthens public protection by establishing a data system that enables compact member states to efficiently share investigative and disciplinary information with one another.

The OT Compact currently has 31 member states and is the process of becoming operational. North Dakota is currently a member of seven of the eighteen available licensure compacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver informational testimony. CSG is available to assist with any questions regarding the OT Compact or interstate compact policy.

Respectfully,

Carl Sims, Deputy Program Director
National Center for Interstate Compacts
The Council of State Governments