



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AOTA President Carolyn Baum Joins Select Group to Craft U.S. Policy on Long-Term Care

Washington, DC – AOTA President Carolyn Baum joined legislators, top government officials, researchers, and industry leaders at the White House Conference on Aging Long Term Care Mini-Conference April 19–20, a meeting organized to help craft a comprehensive policy road map for meeting the nation’s future long-term care needs.

In her charge to the 100+ participants, the Hon. Dorcas Hardy, Chair of the Policy Committee of the White House Conference on Aging, encouraged participants to create a new paradigm that is “functionally oriented, not a disease-based or an age-based system; cost effective, with multitier responsibilities and financing; that follows a continuum but no silos; is consumer-driven and planned to the best of one’s ability.”

The mini-conference commenced with a Socratic Dialogue moderated by Harvard Law School Professor Arthur R. Miller, with panelists including Rep. Ben Cardin (D-MD), House Ways and Means Committee member; Rep. Jim Nussle (R-IA) Chairman of the House Budget Committee; John Rother, AARP Director of Policy and Strategy; Susan Dentzer of the *Newshour With Jim Lehrer*, and others. Following the panel discussion led by Dr. Miller, policy development sessions addressing long-term care

financing, health and independence issues, and supportive services were open to other attendees. Occupational therapy has interests in each of these areas. Dr. Baum participated in the session on health and independence issues. Pam Toto, AOTA Gerontology Special Interest Section Chair, also participated.

“It is an honor to represent AOTA and our profession at a meeting of this caliber,” Baum said. “Occupational therapists nationwide, now and in the future, will be impacted by decisions made here today and at upcoming White House Conference on Aging sessions. I urge all AOTA members working with the aging population to participate as much as possible.”

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The American Occupational Therapy Association is the nationally recognized professional association of more than 35,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students of occupational therapy. These practitioners serve people with physical illnesses and injuries, congenital and chronic conditions, and mental and developmental disabilities, helping them regain, develop, and build skills essential to restoring or maintaining independent function, health and well-being, and social participation. For more information, please visit www.aota.org.

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April 19 - 20, 2005 - White House Conference on Aging Participants



Christine Ribik, AOTA Member, Ribik Rehab Services



Pamela Toto, AOTA Gerontology SIS Chair; Hon. Dorcas Hardy, Policy Committee Chair, White House Conference on Aging; Carolyn Baum, AOTA President



Carolyn Baum, AOTA President and Michael McLendon, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy