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COLORADO GOVERNOR SIGNS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY REGISTRATION INTO LAW

Legislation Requires Practitioners to Meet Educational, Experience and Examination Requirements

(Bethesda, MD) — Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed a bill that will require occupational therapy practitioners to be registered with the state Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). The registration legislation sets a firm standard for Colorado therapists and moves them significantly closer to licensure.

“This new law is really aimed at helping the consumer,” said Chuck Willmarth, Director of State Affairs for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). “Occupational therapy is a science-driven profession with a specific scope of practice. This registration law will make sure that only competent and trained professionals are helping clients of all ages live life to its fullest.”

The registration legislation sets a firm standard for Colorado therapists and moves them significantly closer to licensure. Like registration laws in other states, this bill requires occupational therapists to verify that they have met specific education, experience, and exam requirements. However, most registration laws only protect the title “occupational therapist,” not the practice of occupational therapy; this bill differs from other registration laws in that it provides protection for both. In addition, state agency staff, rather than an occupational therapy regulatory board, will oversee the registration process.

“AOTA was honored to support the Occupational Therapy Association of Colorado (OTAC),” added Willmarth. “The OTAC President Janice Hinds, MS, OTR led a phenomenal effort to provide consumers testifying for the legislation.”

For more information on the Colorado legislation, point your web browser to -
<http://www.aota.org/News/AdvocacyNews/41924.aspx>

Founded in 1917, the **American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)** represents the interests and concerns of more than 36,000 occupational therapists, assistants and students nationwide. The Association educates the public and advances the profession of occupational therapy by providing resources, setting standards including accreditation and serving as an advocate to improve health care. Based in Bethesda, Maryland, AOTA’s major programs and activities are directed toward promoting the professional development of its members and assuring consumer access to quality services so patients can maximize their individual potential and live life to its fullest. For more information go to www.aota.org