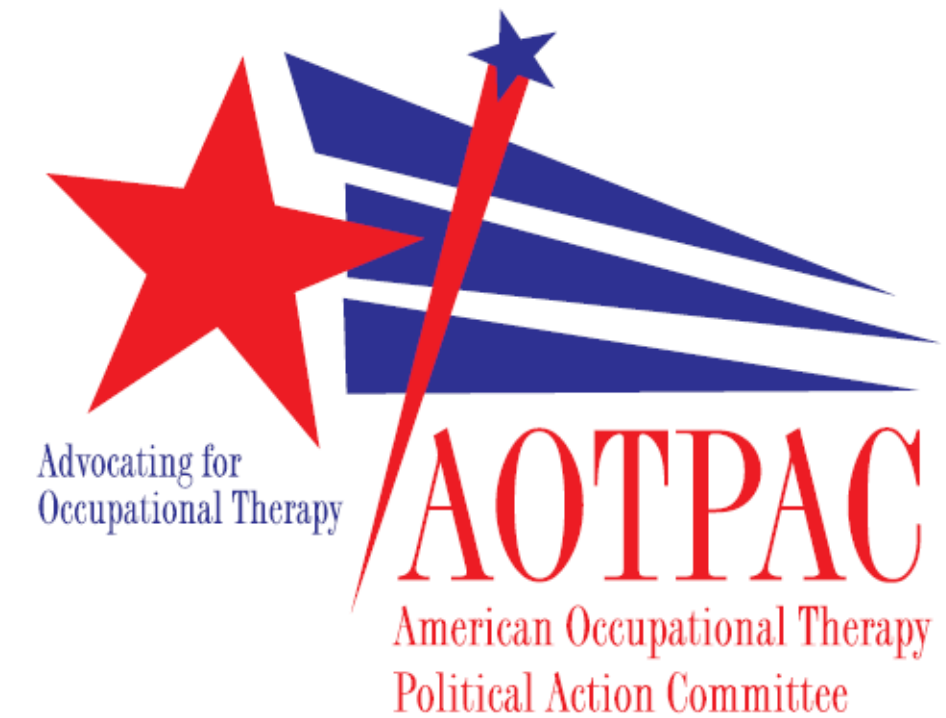


ALC-2025

WEAVING CHANGE:

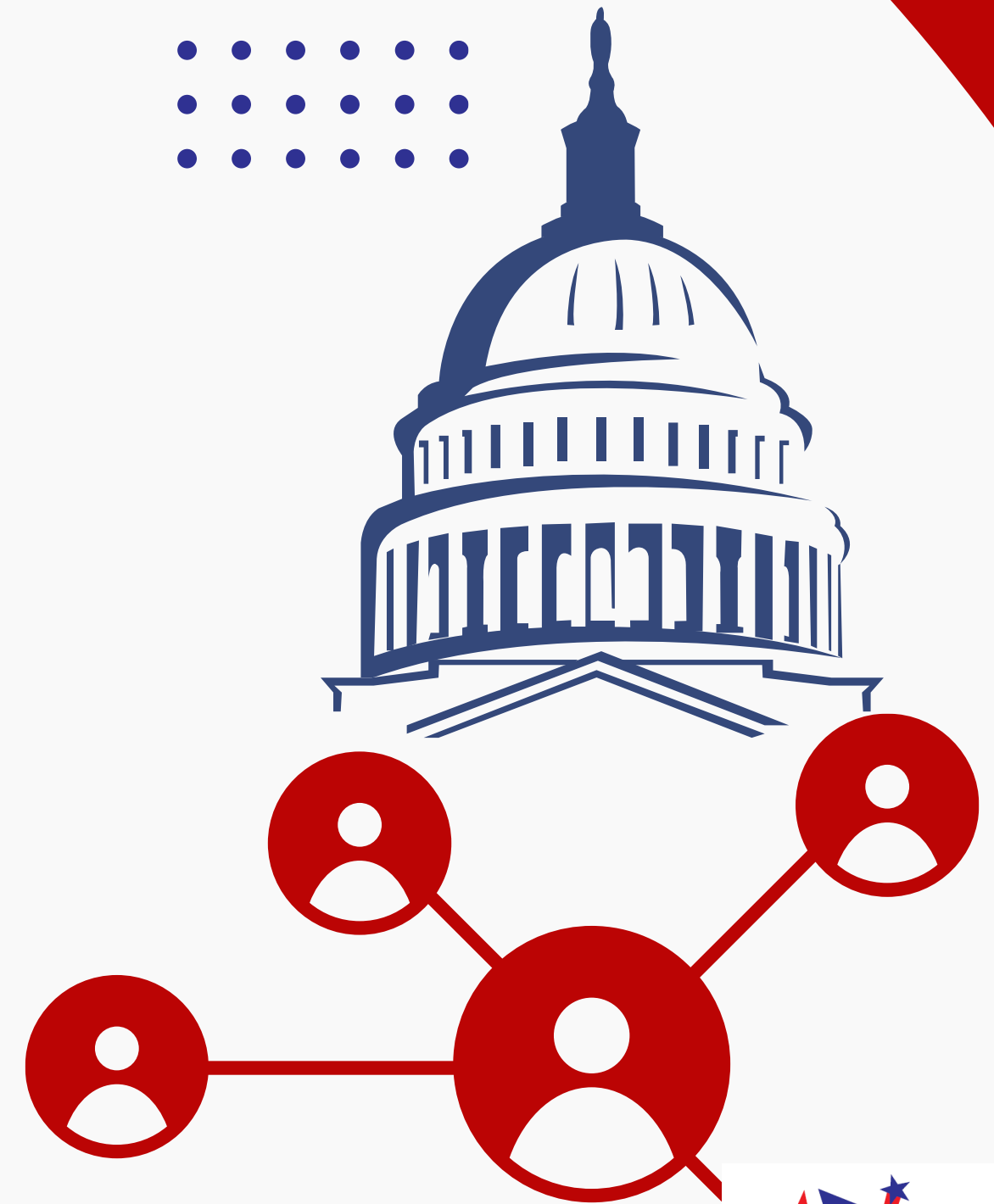
*Every PAC Contribution is a Thread That
Strengthens the OT Profession*



ADVOCACY IN THE NEW CONGRESS

New Issues

- ✓ Support for the Department of Education and IDEA
- ✓ Preserving Funding for Medicaid
- ✓ Preserving Research Funding
- ✓ Ensuring Access to Student Loans



ADVOCACY IN THE NEW CONGRESS

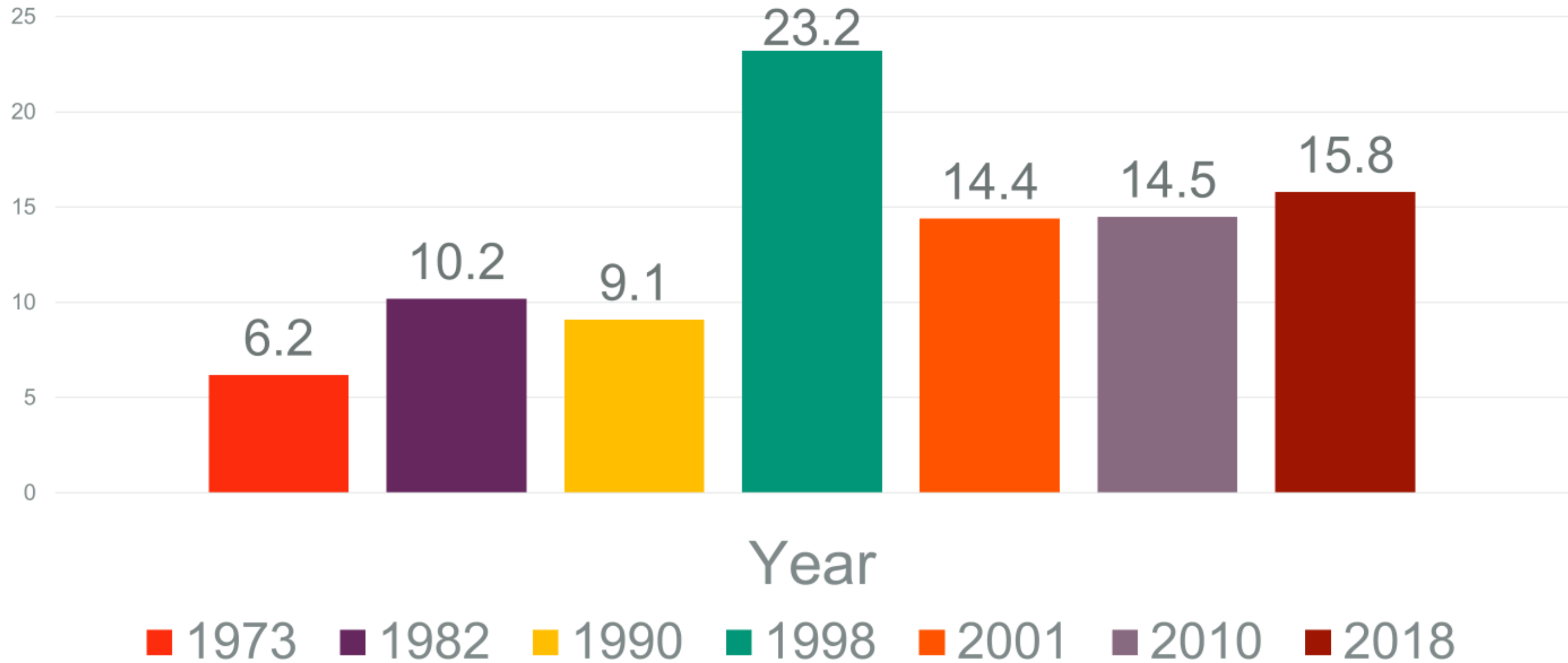
Continued Work & Opportunities

- ★ Improving Payment and Reimbursement for OT services Under Medicare*
- ★ Making OT a Qualifying Home Health Provider*
- ★ Increasing the Role of OT in Mental Health
- ★ Expanding OTP's Role in Falls Prevention*
- ★ Removing Barriers to Interstate Licensure Compacts*

***Bills introduced in new Congress**



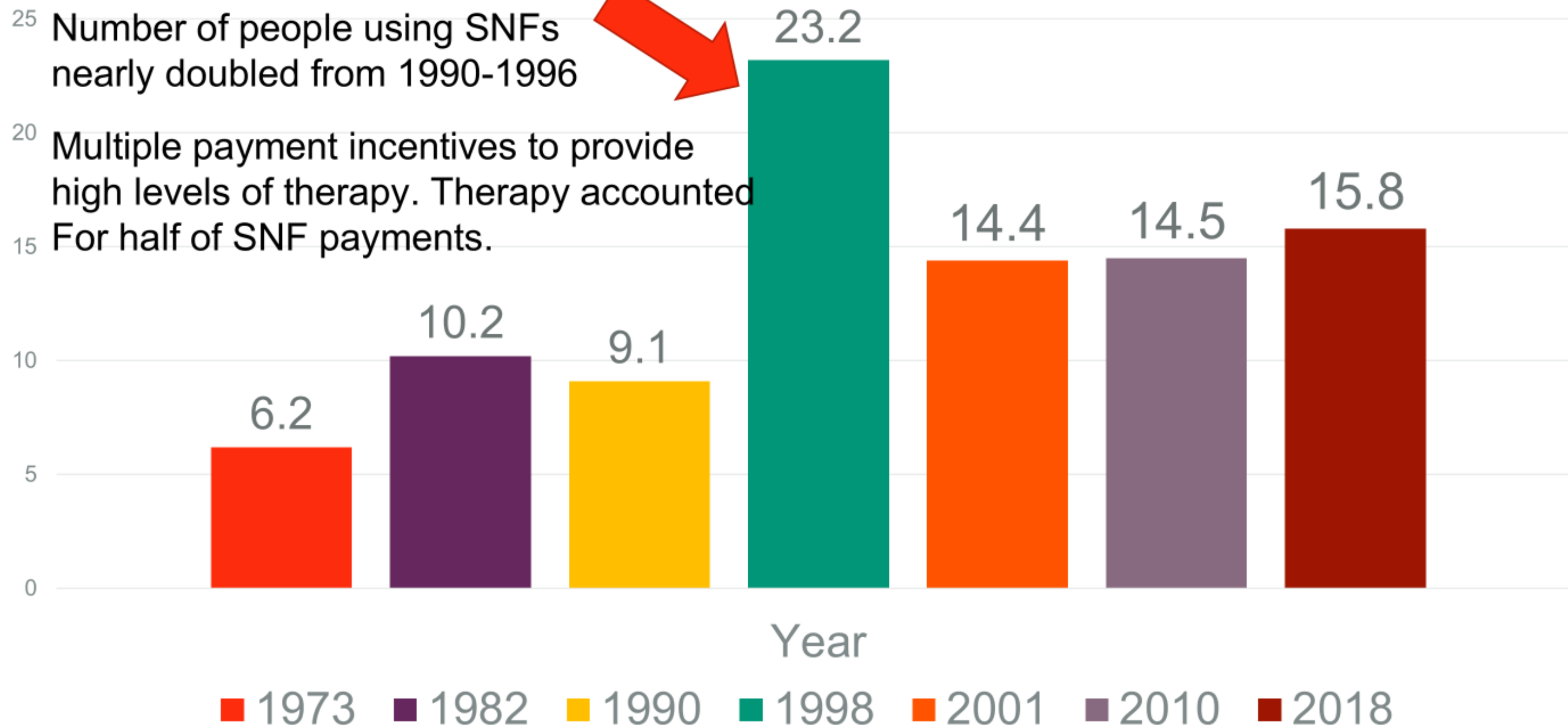
Protect – Skilled Nursing Facility



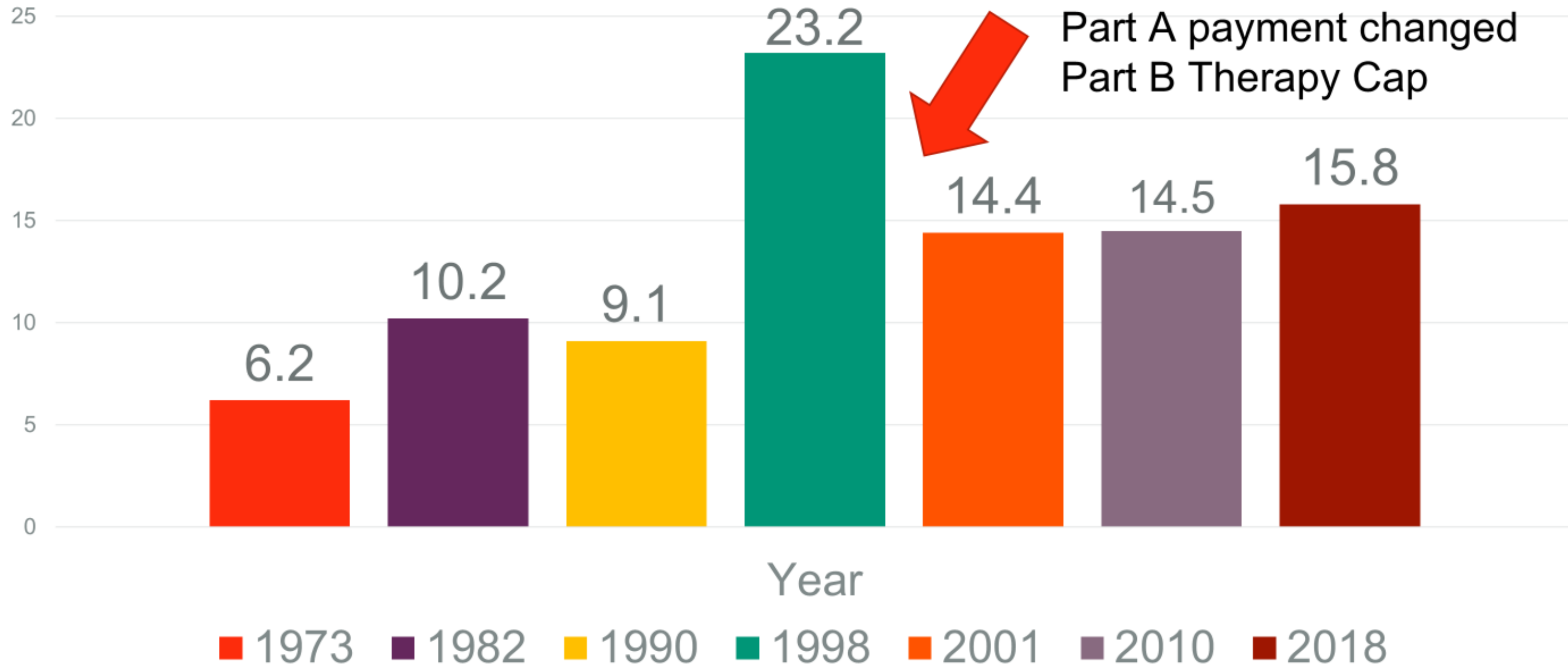
Protect – Skilled Nursing Facility

²⁵ Number of people using SNFs nearly doubled from 1990-1996

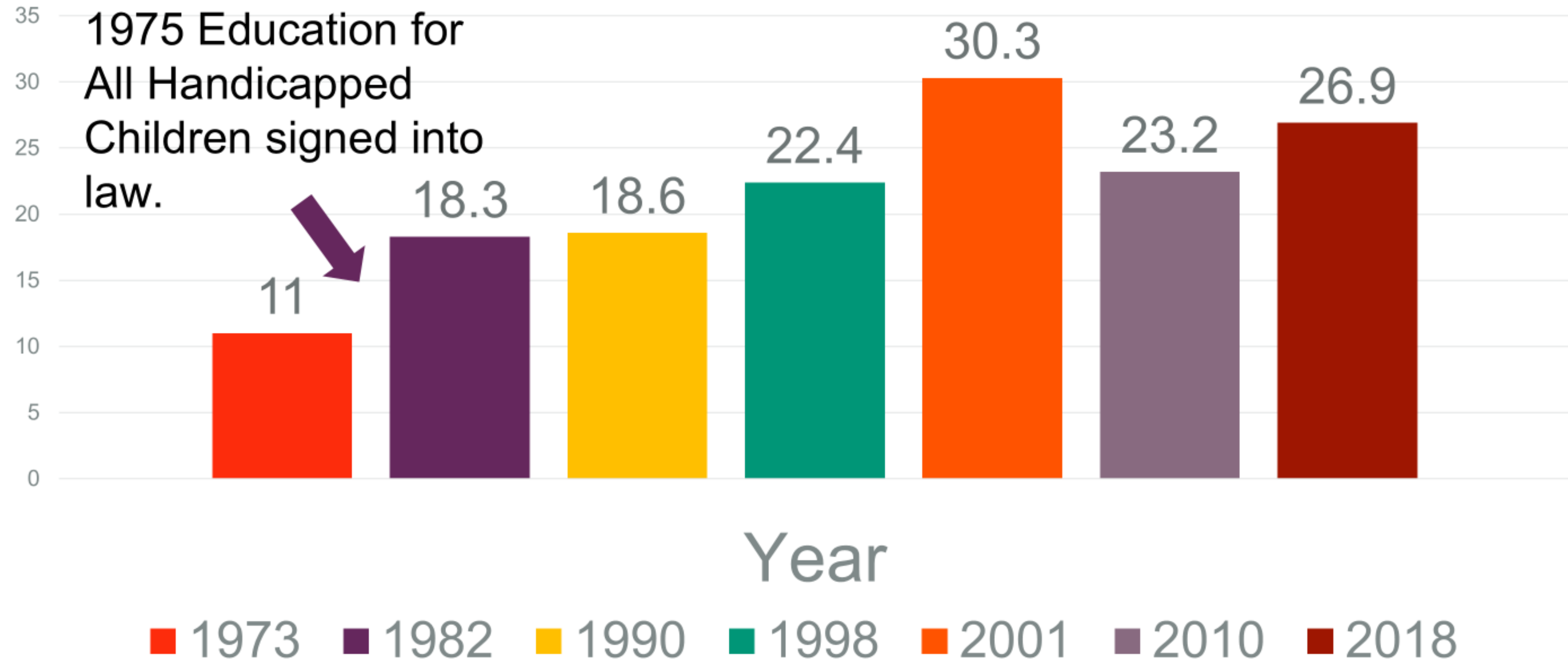
²⁰ Multiple payment incentives to provide high levels of therapy. Therapy accounted for half of SNF payments.



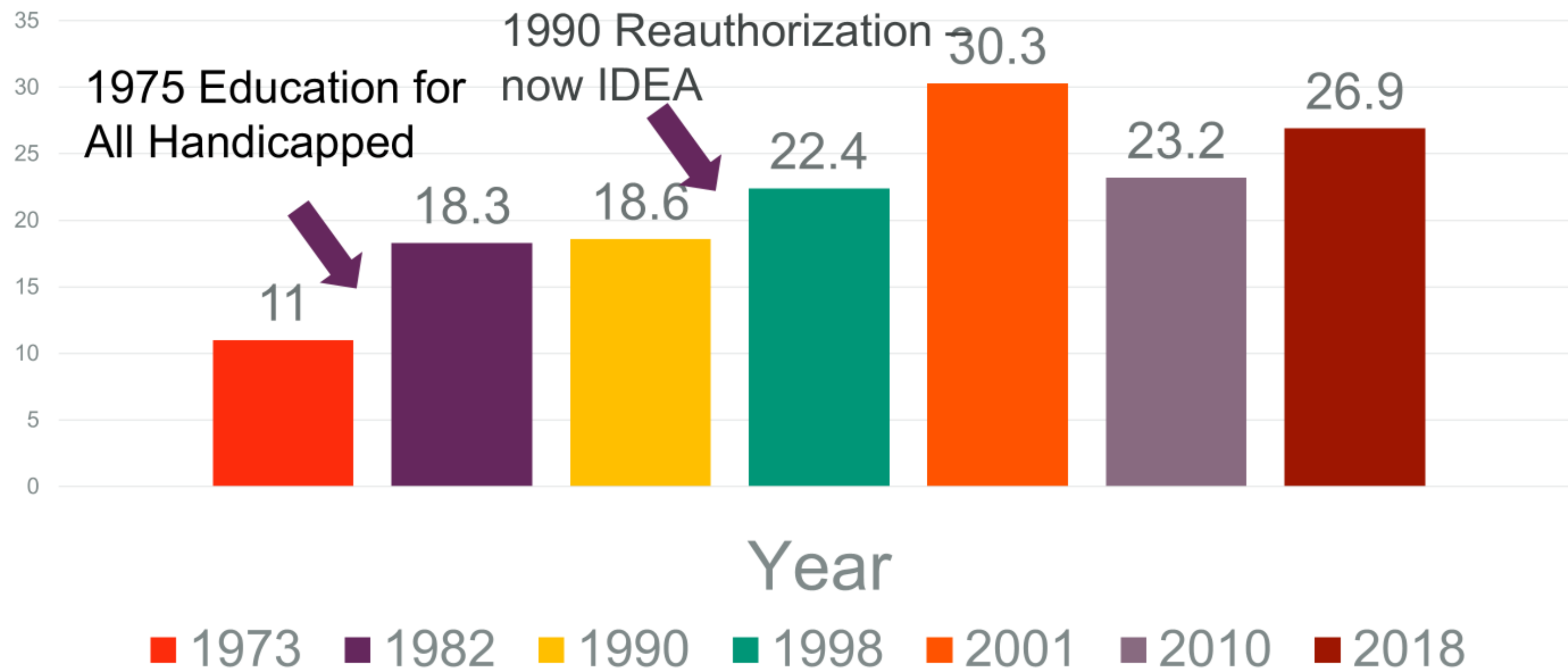
Protect – Skilled Nursing Facility



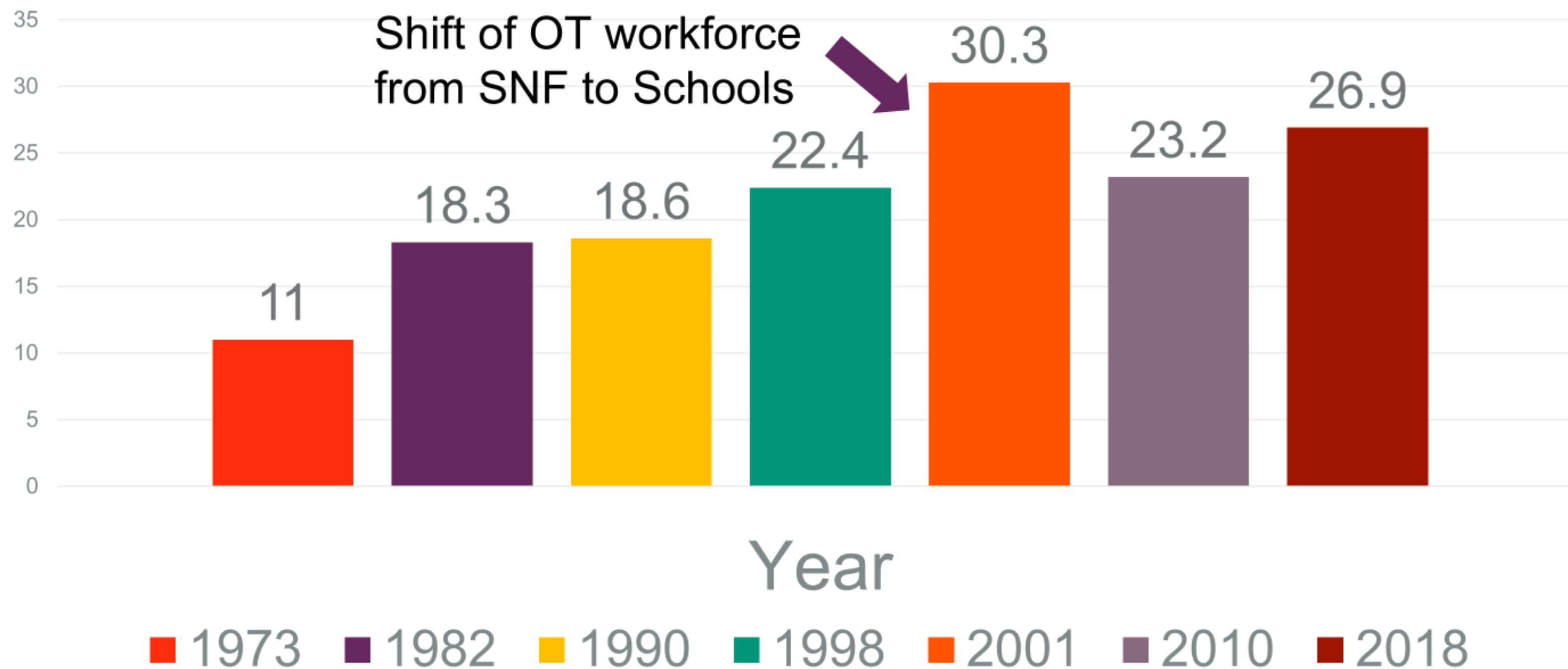
Promote – School System, Early Intervention



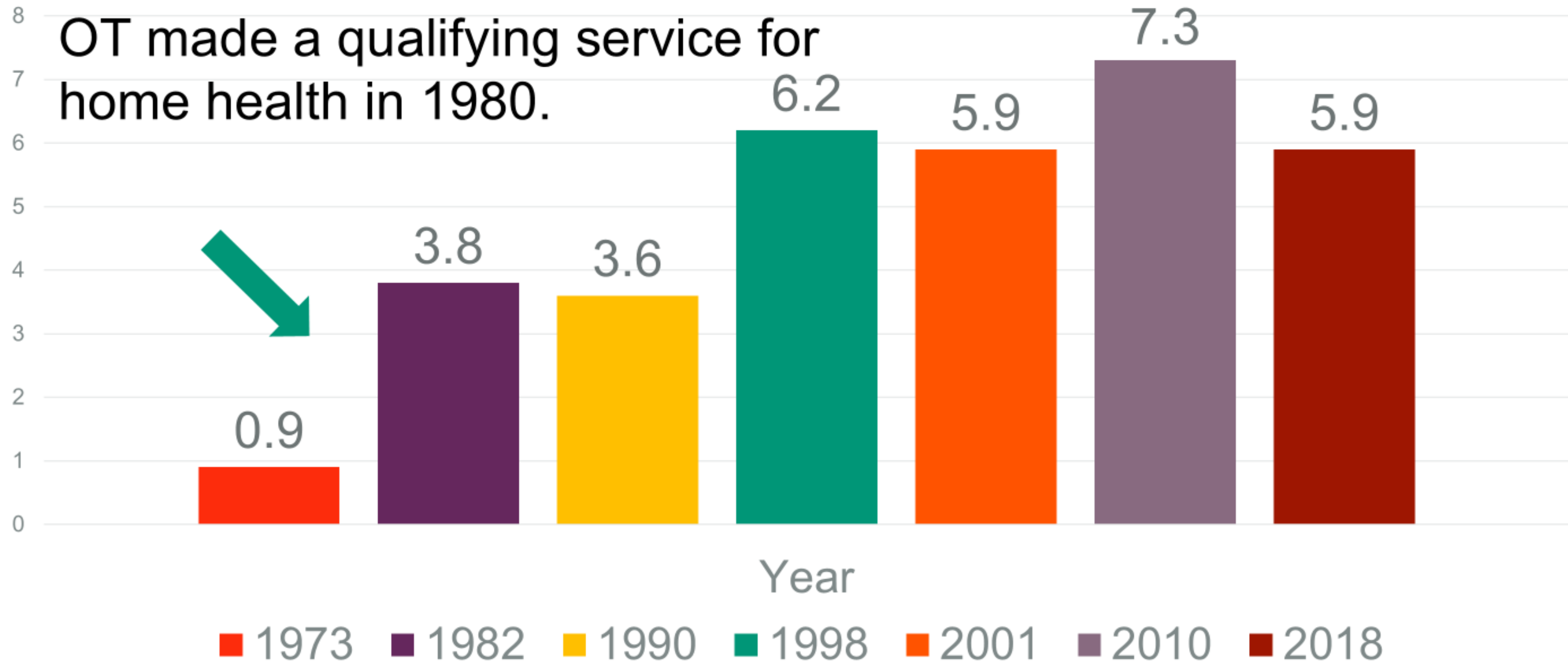
Promote – School System, Early Intervention



Promote – School System, Early Intervention



Progress – Home Health and Community Based Services





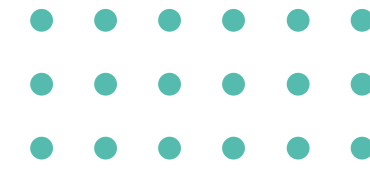
Each member is like a thread in a fabric.

Our profession is diverse, with varied settings, locations, and expertise.

An AOTA member is one individual,

UNITED, we represent a single, powerful voice for the future of OT.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



ALWAYS HAS TO HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

ALWAYS HAS TO ADVOCATE

ALWAYS NEEDS TO SHARE THE VALUE OF OUR
PROFESSION



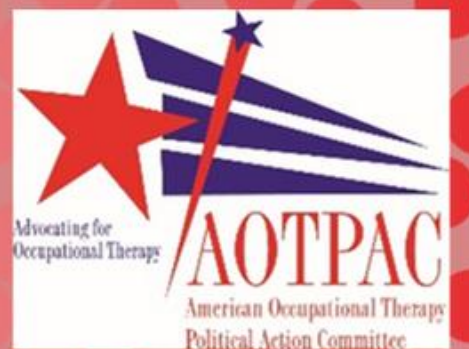
American
Occupational Therapy
Association

Members



AOTPAC can only solicit money from AOTA members

*****By law, AOTA cannot give any financial support to a candidate running for office, none of your AOTA membership dues can be used to support political candidates or attend fundraising events**

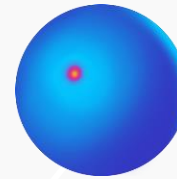


LEGISLATORS ARE POLICYMAKERS

Legislators make decisions that directly impact both the profession & the individuals we serve.

While they may not be experts in every field, they rely on us to provide valuable input to guide their decisions.

As our profession evolves in response to the changing world, it's crucial to have legislators who are informed allies of Occupational Therapy.



FROM POLICY TO PEOPLE: RISING DEMAND FOR OT AS DISABILITIES AND AGING NEEDS GROW



Advancements in medicine have led to longer lifespans, with premature infants surviving at higher rates.

**By 2030, all Baby Boomers will be 65+
(1 in 7 in U.S.)**

- Aging is associated with a rise in health conditions and disabilities

Mental health is an important part of overall well-being.

EXAMPLE

Southern Living Magazine

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SEEK LIVES THAT REFLECT THEIR VALUES, INTERESTS, AND GOALS



How To Plan an Accessible Trip

A few pieces of advice to make travel easier and more enjoyable

START AT THE VISITORS BUREAU

Vacationing with wheelchairs or other mobility aids requires research beyond where to stay and what to do. Begin planning by going to your destination's convention and visitors bureau (CVB) website. For this trip, I checked out visitsavannah.com for travel options (like trolleys and tours) and info on what to expect in terms of accessibility. The site has a list of public transportation choices that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but we relied on our car and my wheelchair to optimize time.

CALL AHEAD

Hotels, including historic ones, must follow the ADA accessibility standards, but they often omit specific details on their websites. Make a list of any questions, and call to verify the degree of accessibility in your room. I've learned the hard way that narrow spaces; bathtubs rather than roll-in showers; and poorly placed mirrors, irons, and hair dryers can be frustrating. That said, hotels can't customize a room to suit all your needs. Take a breath, scout out potential challenges, and move things around if needed.

WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK

Likewise, if a restaurant, boutique, museum, or any other business does not have clear photographs of interiors or a section about accessibility on their website, it's best to request more information and explain your needs. Some places may have accommodations that require work-arounds, such as portable ramps or alternative entrances. Scheduling ahead is also important to minimize disappointment if you can't easily get into a building.

MIND THE CURBS

Although most sidewalks have sloping transitions to crosswalks, some are in need of maintenance. Look around for other corner curbs that are smoother to navigate.

CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

At my stage of disability, I need someone to help me with mobility devices and logistics. I mostly travel with family but have also taken fun trips with friends who are willing to trade mountain hikes for garden strolls. Keep in mind the challenges that are faced by your caregiver. My husband is frequently more worn out than I am.

TAKE YOUR TIME

Getting around in an unfamiliar place takes patience, whether you're on foot, wheels, or tires. But you can choose to enjoy the journey and all that comes with it. Savannah's special power is the appeal of the unexpected. Explore the squares, look at the houses, stop at a cafe, and strike up a conversation.

SOUTHERN LIVING 97

Macdougall, F. (2025, March 1). How to plan an accessible trip . *Southern Living* , 60(2), 97–97.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO KNOW:

Occupational Therapy: is part of the solution

Occupational Therapy: reduces readmissions

Occupational Therapy: reduces costs

Occupational Therapy: improves client satisfaction

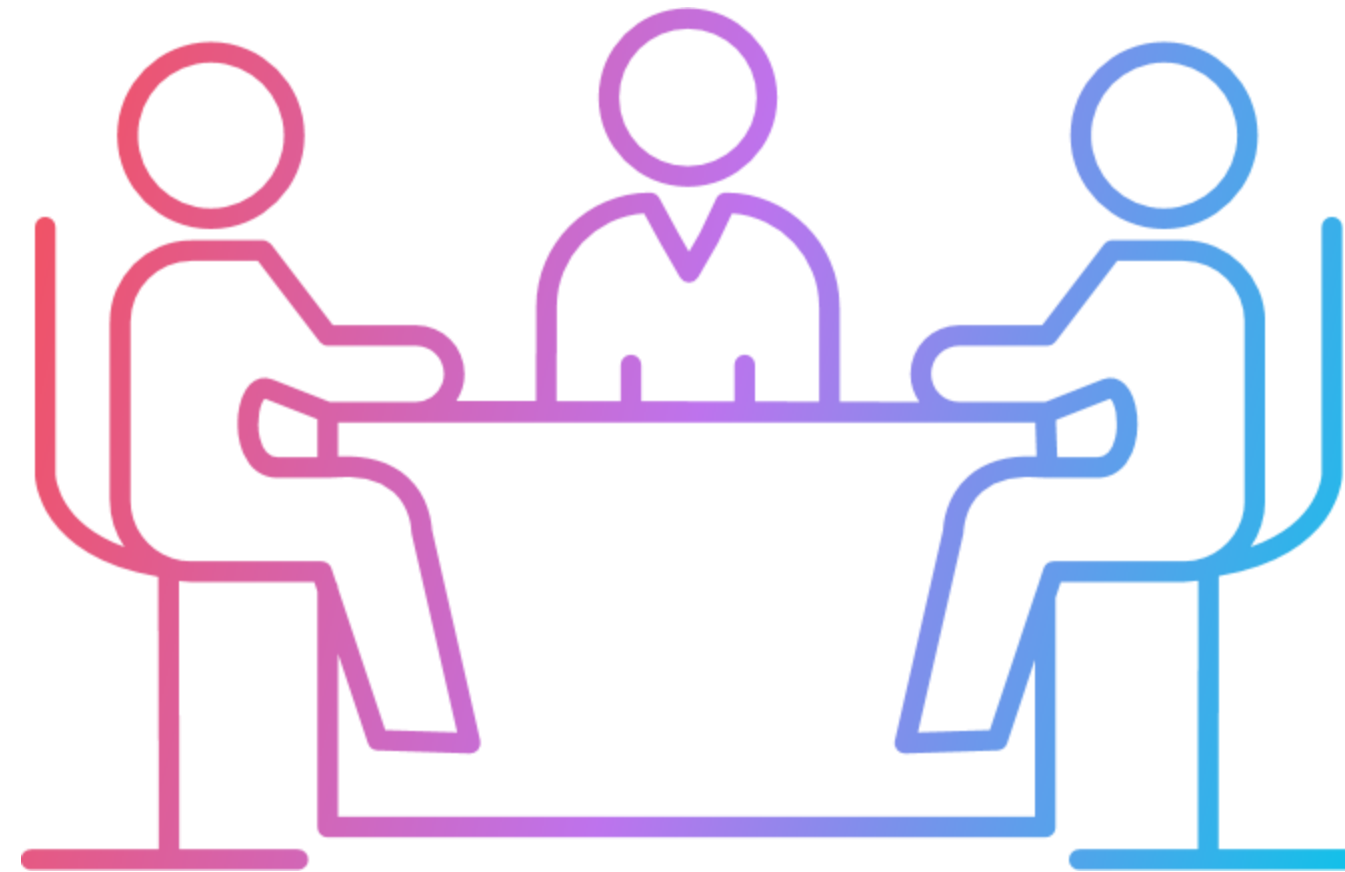
Legislation Impacts Health Care



**“...legislation has had (and continues to have) a strong role in determining which populations are served by occupational therapy, where the services are provided, and how those services are reimbursed.”
(Jacobs, p. 38)**

Haskins, A., & Hanson, D. (2010). Chapter 4. In *The Occupational Therapy Manager* (5th ed., pp. 38–38). essay, AOTA Press.

Occupational Therapy needs a seat at the table



***...If you're not at the
table,
you're on the menu!***

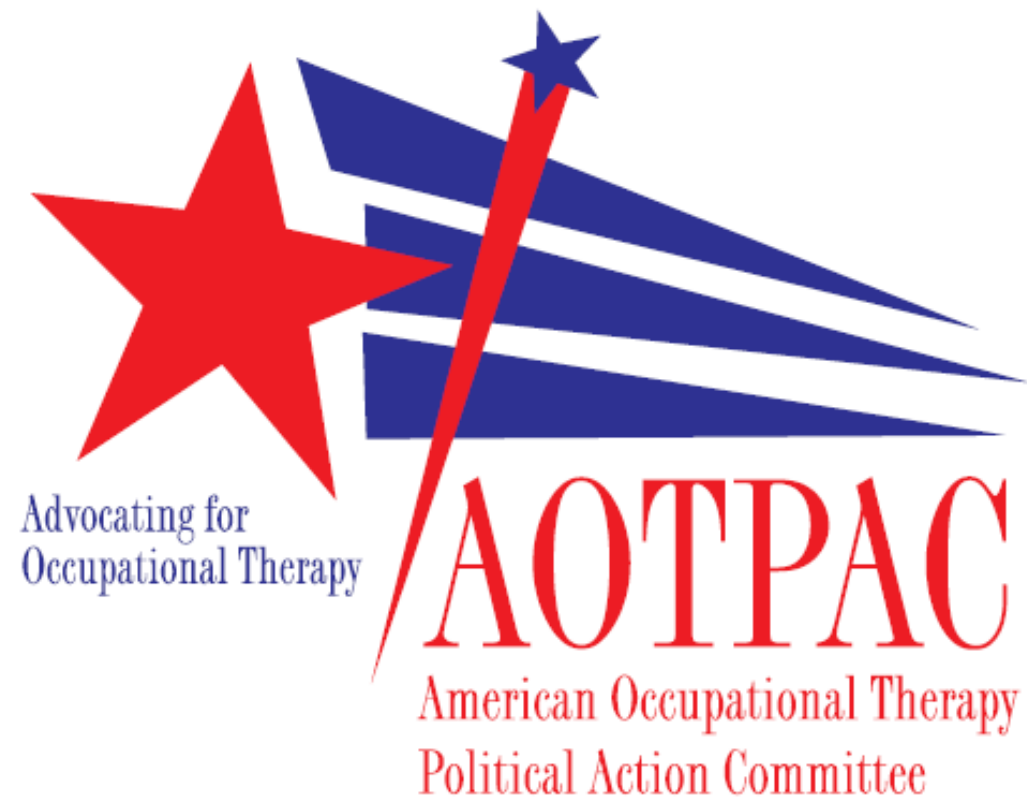


AOTPAC

A POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE IS A GROUP
(AOTPAC)

FORMED BY AN INDUSTRY
OR ISSUE-ORIENTED ORGANIZATION
(OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY)

TO RAISE & CONTRIBUTE \$
TO THE CAMPAIGNS
OF CANDIDATES
LIKELY TO ADVANCE
THE GROUP'S INTERESTS



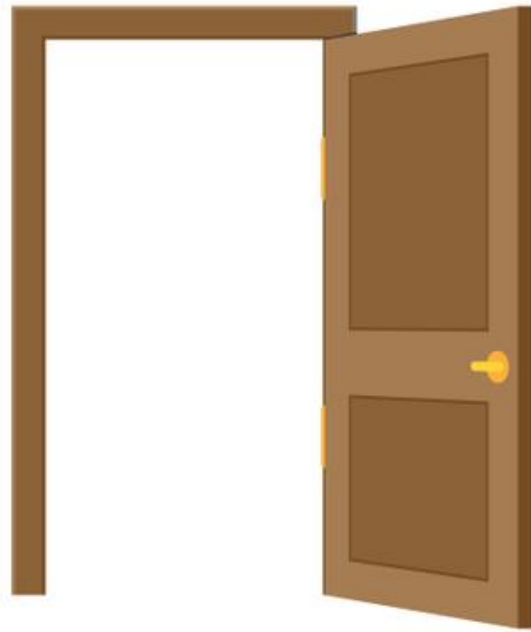


AOTPAC
represents
the party
of
Occupational
Therapy

SPECIAL DOLLARS...



PAC \$\$



Access



Seat at the Table



Educate

AOTPAC GOALS

To raise \$

**Elect policy makers who
support occupational
therapy at the federal
level**

**To have a positive
impact on policy to
enhance
occupational
therapy**

**Put OT in the
Spotlight**



Elect policy makers who support occupational therapy at the federal level

- **Policy makers sponsoring & co-sponsoring bills supporting OT**
- **Policy makers advocating on behalf of OT**
- **Ex: Rep. Lloyd Smucker: “This bill will make sure that seniors can receive the care that helps them manage their activities of daily living and thrive in their homes.”**





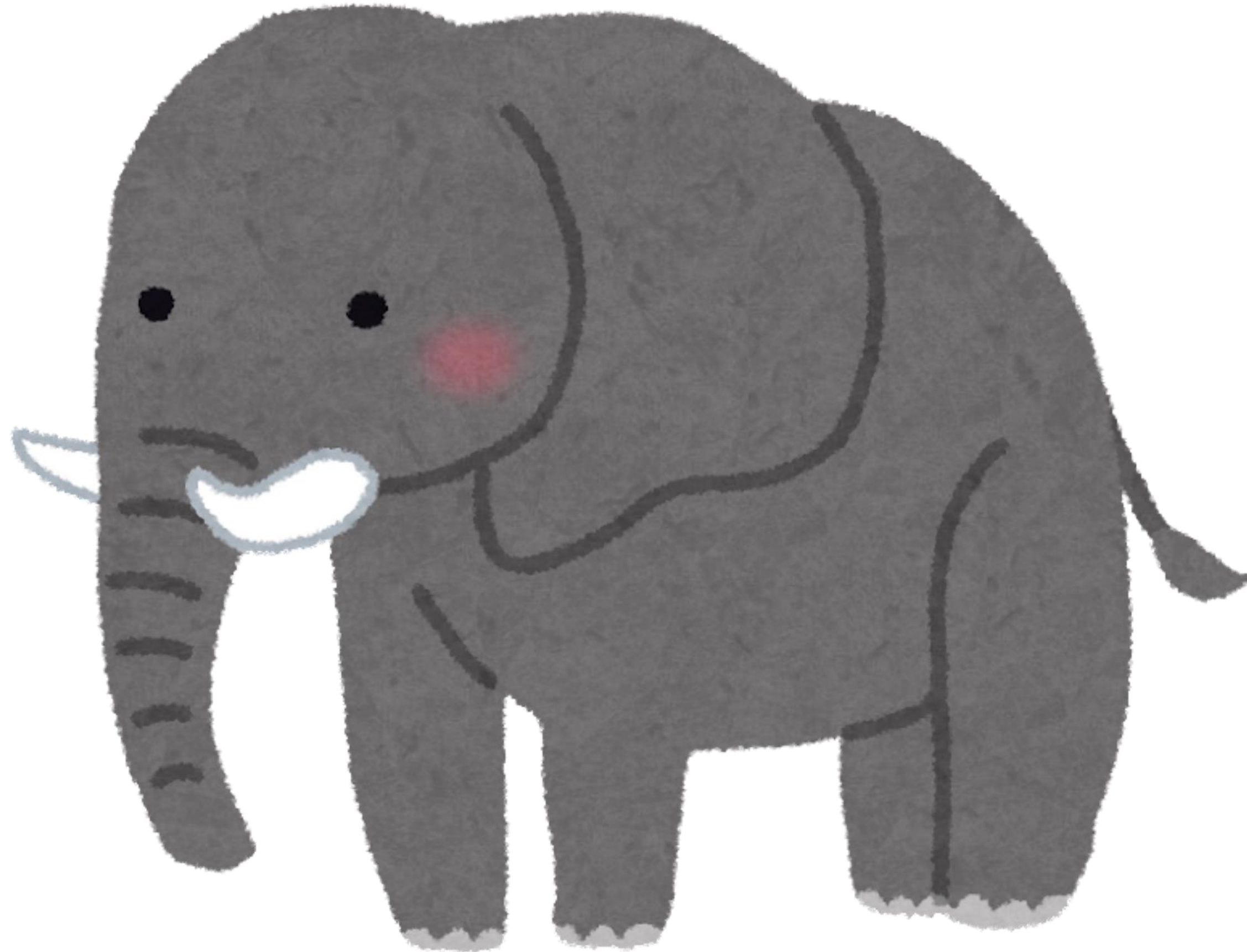
To have a positive impact on policy to enhance occupational therapy

- **OTA Supervision**
- **Home Health: OTs can open Home Health Cases**
- **Mental Health: recognized as mental health professionals**
- **Advocating against Medicare payment cuts, reducing the impact of the cuts**



Put OT in the Spotlight:

**These funds support
OTs, OTAs, and students
in attending local legislative events,
where they can spotlight the value of occupational therapy!**



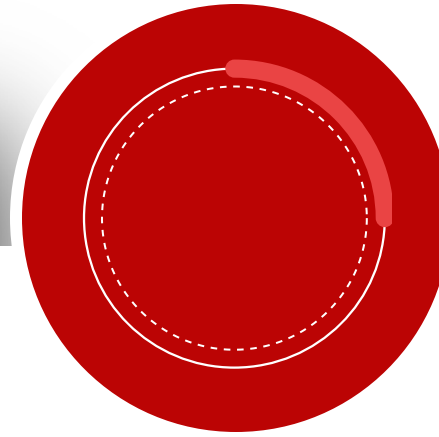
**AOTPAC contributions are
like threads in a fabric.
Alone, they might seem
insignificant...**



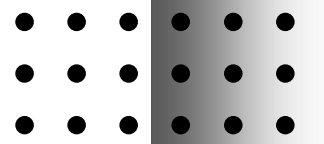
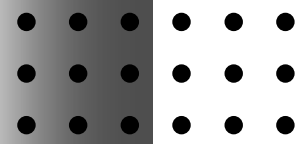
**BUT WHEN WOVEN TOGETHER, THEY FORM A STRONG,
UNIFIED TAPESTRY**


**YOUR SUPPORT
HELPS WEAVE
THE FUTURE OF OT**





**The beauty of a tapestry
lies in its complexity and the way
individual threads come together to form a cohesive whole.
Each thread represents a small part
of the larger picture,
and while each thread may seem insignificant on its own,
when combined, they create something much greater—
a complete, intricate work of art.**

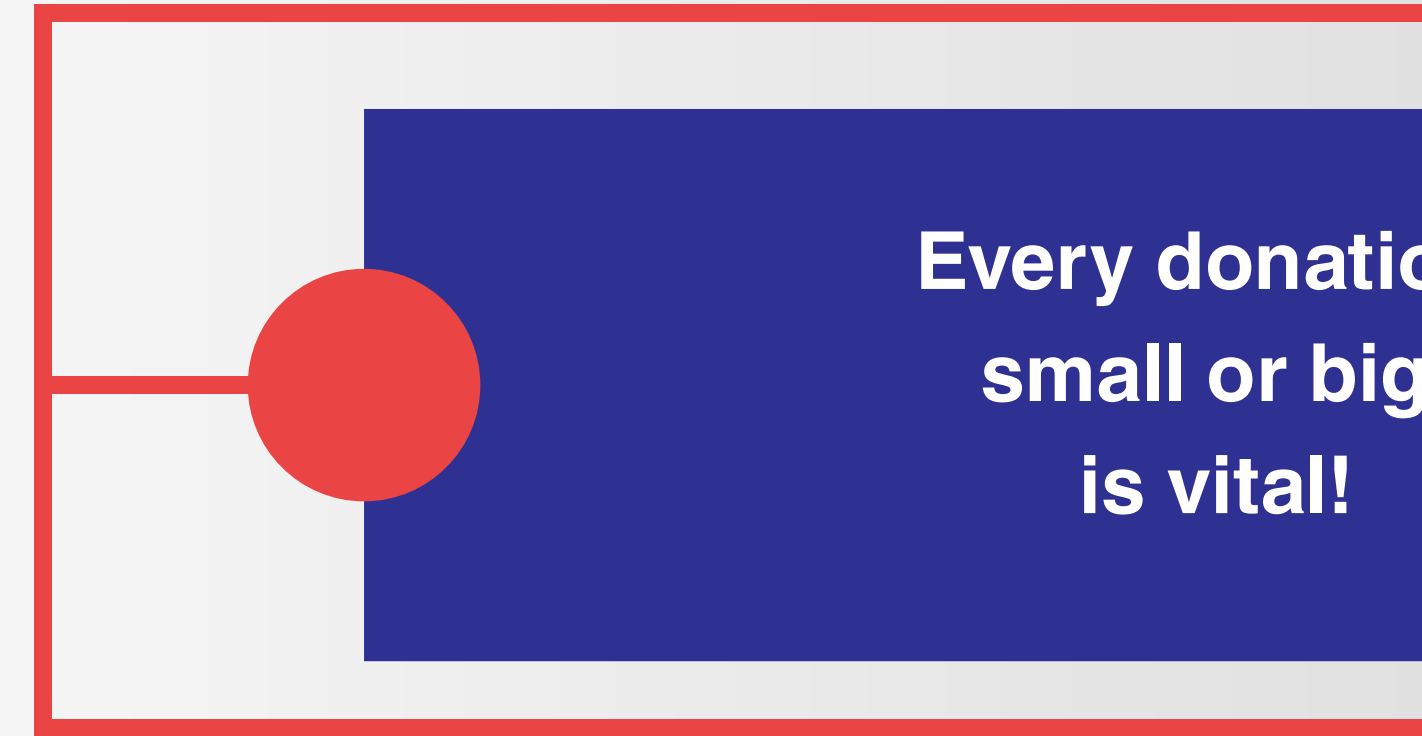




**Every contribution, like every
thread in a tapestry, adds to the
overall strength of occupational
therapy.**



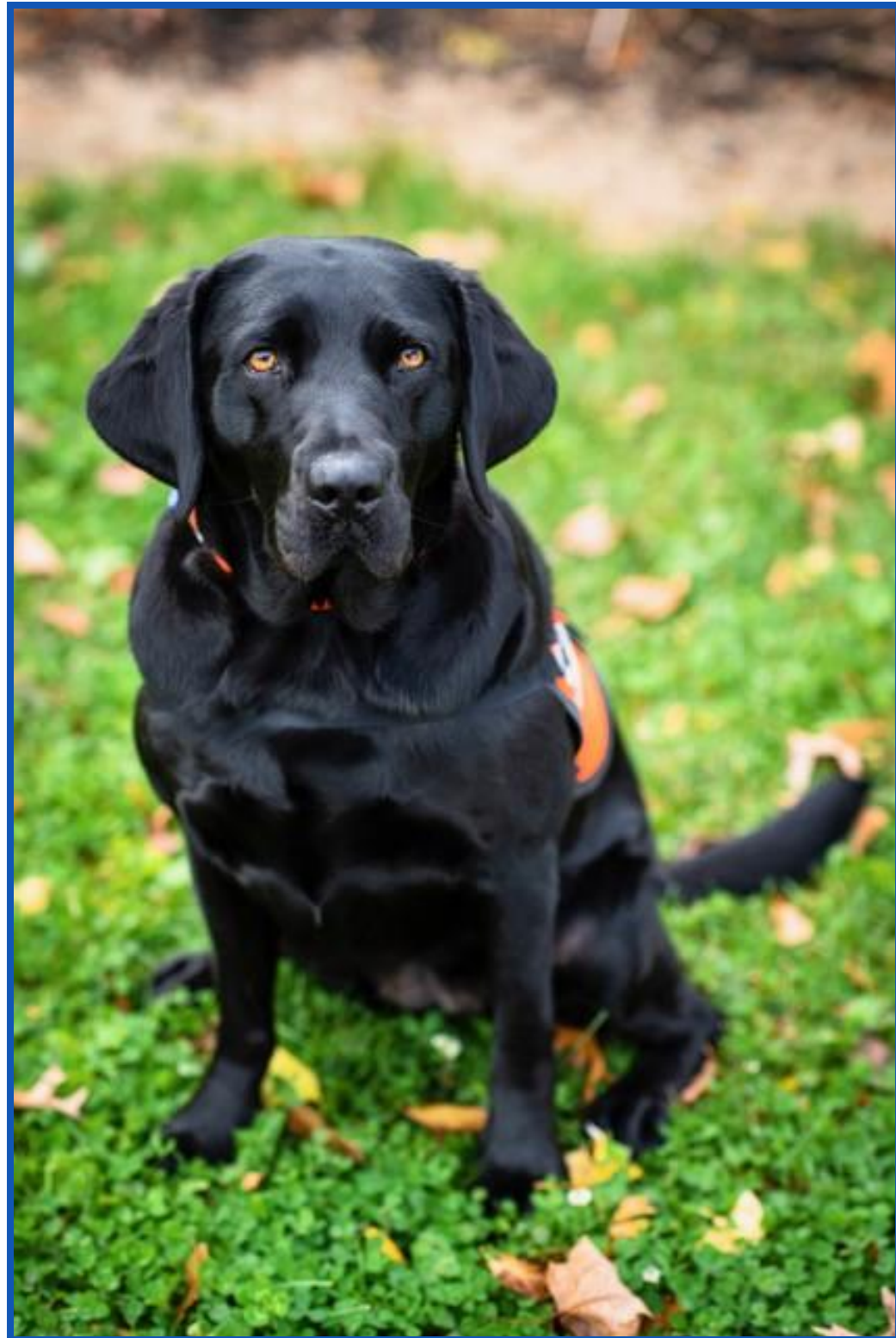
**Every donation,
small or big,
is vital!**



**Collectively, these efforts weave
a stronger, more impactful
outcome for the clients we serve
& the profession!**

**WE
NEED
YOU !**

MEET SOPHIE & SANDRA



2 CHOICES!!

GREEN ORANGE



\$50 CONTRIBUTION

COLOR IN NOTEPAD



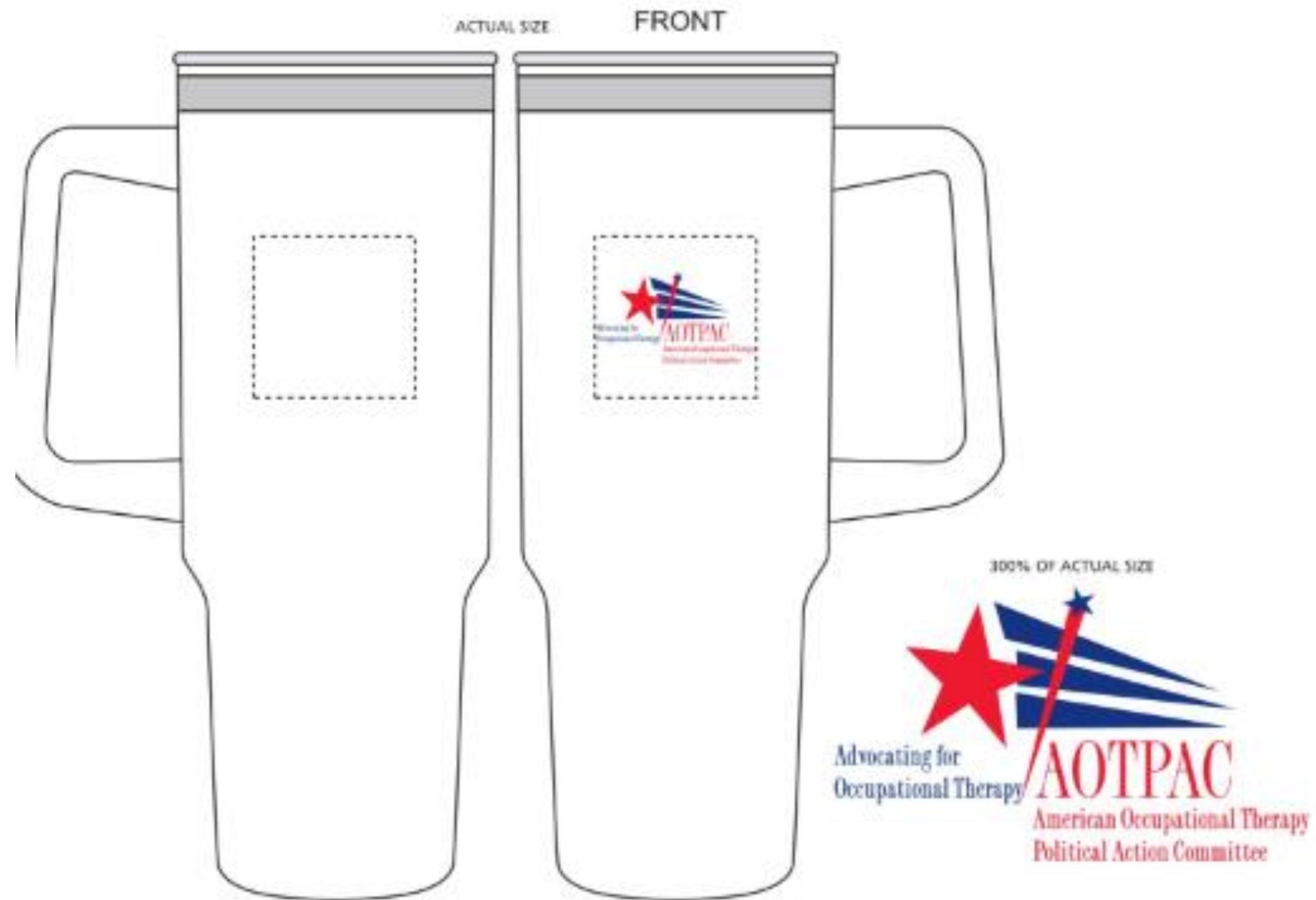
\$25 CONTRIBUTION

CAPITOL STRESSOR



\$30 CONTRIBUTION





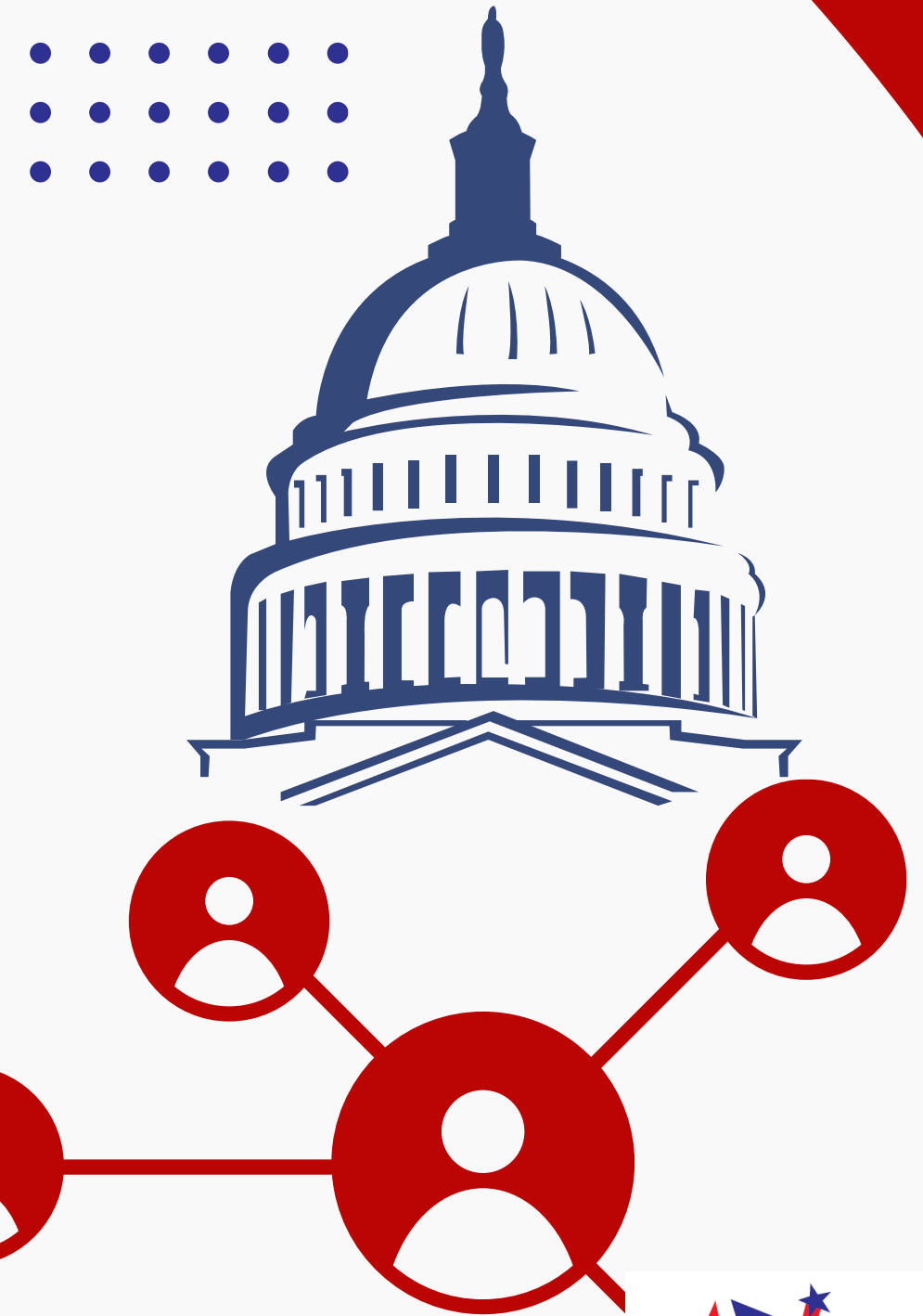
Stanley inspired mug (with straw)
\$100 contribution

Do We Need:

- Funding for Research?
- Access to Student Loans?
- Reimbursement for occupational therapy services?
- Jobs for entry-level practitioners?
- Support for the Department of Ed and IDEA?
- Rights for individuals with disabilities?
- Mental Health Services?
- Do any of these impact program admissions?

**Then set up a recurring monthly
contribution to PAC**

If not you, then who?





Your Voice Counts!

“Keeping OT in the Policy Spotlight”

AOTA members, donate today!



1. Scan
2. Log-in
3. Donate



Contributions to AOTPAC are voluntary and refusal does not affect an AOTA member's rights. Contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes

AOTA

