



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ motamembers.org

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 565
Title: Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information
Hearing Date: February 16, 2021
Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill – 565 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information*. This bill would require an annual report on the racial and ethnic composition of all individuals who hold a license or certificate issued by a health occupations board compared to the composition of the State’s population.

MOTA supports efforts to review the composition of occupational therapy practitioners to ensure that the racial and ethnic composition of our workforce is representative of the overall state population. Occupational therapy practitioners work in a variety of settings and with a multitude of populations groups at increased risk of complex health issues. This includes education settings working with students with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP); older adults in assisted living and nursing homes; and children and adults of all ages receiving habilitative services in hospitals and outpatient community health settings.

MOTA fully supports this legislation to further address health disparities among those we provide occupational therapy services to. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.