



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill:	Senate Bill 407 – Health Occupations – Health Care Staffing Shortages Emergency – Declaration and Licensing Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act)
Hearing Date:	February 9, 2022
Position:	Support with Amendments

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports the underlying intention of Senate Bill 407 – Health Occupations – Health Care Staffing Shortages Emergency – Declaration of Licensing Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act). We would ask to work with the Governor’s Office, the Committee, and other stakeholders on further refining the bill:

- We believe that the Secretary should consult with health professional associations, health occupational boards, schools, and other health facilities before making any decisions on health care shortages.
- We believe this bill is too focused on hospital shortages. Occupational therapy practitioners work in a wide range of settings where shortages already exist: home health, long-term care, and school settings for example.
- We believe that the bill is too prescriptive in the steps that the Secretary could take. It is difficult to predict the parameters of future shortages. We believe that the solutions are best left up to the health professionals and health licensing boards who have the best understanding of state licensure requirements and opportunities for flexibility. We would recommend modifying the bill to allow health occupation boards, in consultation with health professional associations and facilities, to make recommendations of the Secretary on potential solutions.

We think this is an important issue and we are committed to supporting the Governor’s office and the Maryland General Assembly in crafting the right solution so Maryland is better prepared for workforce shortages. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.