

To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
From: Travis Grauerholz
Kansas Occupational Therapy Association
Date: February 17, 2022
Re: Support of SB 440

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide remarks in support of SB 440.

I am Travis Grauerholz appearing on behalf of the Kansas Occupational Therapy Association (KOTA). Founded in 1972, KOTA's membership of about 450 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and occupational therapy students strives to improve advance practice, education, and maintain accepted standards of professional performance. KOTA focuses on helping individuals participate in the meaningful activities they need and want to do after an injury, disability, or other health condition.

In current law, occupational therapists are only allowed to evaluate and treat patients with a physician's referral. SB 440 gives occupational therapists the limited ability to treat patients without that referral of a licensed physician. This change would save time allowing quicker access for patients to begin receiving treatment from one of Kansas' highly skilled and certified therapists.

Because of this change SB 440 would add in language that would require occupational therapists to maintain professional liability insurance coverage.

SB 440 DOES NOT eliminate the referral process completely. The referral process will kick back in if the patient is not progressing toward documented treatment goals after ten patient visits or a period of 30 calendar days from the initial treatment visit or returns after a year from the initial treatment seeking treatment for the same condition or injury.

The bill would also add language that occupational therapists are authorized to perform wound care management services only after approval by a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or other licensed health care practitioner in appropriately related cases.

The Kansas Occupational Therapy Association would ask your support of SB 440.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this matter.

Travis Grauerholz