



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements of the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80), the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) has undertaken a study of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's administration of the Illinois Occupational Therapy Practice Act (the Act) (225 ILCS 75). GOMB has provided my office with a copy of the study and its recommendations regarding whether the Act should be terminated, modified, or continued. I have reviewed GOMB's submission and offer the following comments and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration.

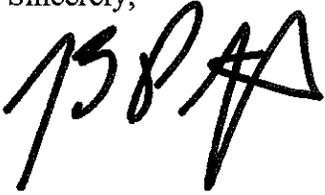
The Occupational Therapy Practice Act governs the licensure of occupational therapy in the State of Illinois. The absence of regulation of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants would pose a significant and direct harm to the safety and welfare of the public. The lack of regulation would negatively impact the ethical standards that protect patients and jeopardize the services for occupational therapy they utilize. Practitioners work directly with individuals experiencing mental health problems, disabilities, injuries, or impairments, and provide therapeutic health care services to improve the individual's ability to perform activities of daily living. Occupational therapists most often work with individuals who exhibit congenital disorders, sensory processing disorders, traumatic injuries to the brain or spinal cord, autism and other developmental disorders, mental or behavioral health problems, and other types of injuries impacting a person's ability to perform everyday tasks. Therefore, the health, safety, and welfare of the public is put at risk without proper training, licensing, and oversight of occupational therapists.

The absence of regulation of this industry would pose a significant and direct harm to the welfare of the public. Current evidence does not suggest that the imposition of the state regulatory standards is such a burden as to outweigh the benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois in continuing the licensure and regulation of this profession. Consequently, the Act is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois.

The Occupational Therapy Practice Act should be continued to promote and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the public and does not place an undue burden on licensees or commerce.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget's report on its study is provided for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Governor JB Pritzker