

May 25, 2014

Dear (Senator or Representative),

I am writing as a constituent and occupational therapy practitioner to share with you some very important issues for my profession and the health care system in general.

Occupational therapy is a profession dedicated to the improvement and maximization of function and performance—how, when and how well people do the activities or “occupations” is important to them. This allows people to live healthier, more productive and satisfying lives.

In regard to health reform there are a few issues I wanted to bring to your attention.

- I support inclusion of language that would allow home health agencies to use occupational therapy to provide the initial and comprehensive evaluation and visit to give them flexibility to meet beneficiaries’ needs.
- I believe it is essential that rehabilitation and habilitation be specifically named as required categories of services under whatever new plans might be created through the reform process.
- I support the Finance Committee amendment to allow a study of “direct access” to Medicare outpatient services, as it now includes occupational therapy. (Lincoln Finance Amendment D9)
- I do not support changes to the payment system for the Medicare orthotics and prosthetics payment system that would restrict competition and restrain my legal scope of practice. (Wyden Finance Amendment D10)
- I believe occupational therapy is a key component of the health system and efforts must be made to increase the number of professionals to meet future needs by supporting workforce development.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope that you will contact me with any questions you may have about occupational therapy and our role in meeting the health care needs of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Name (with credentials)

Address

Phone Number