

Kansas Occupational Therapy Association
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Topeka, Kansas 66603



To: House Health Committee
From: R.E. "Tuck" Duncan
RE: HB 2496

HB2496 amends the definition of the "Practice of occupational therapy" (as shown in the *italics*, as follows) "means the therapeutic use of purposeful and meaningful occupations (goal-directed activities) to evaluate and treat, pursuant to the referral, supervision, order or direction of a physician, a licensed podiatrist, a licensed dentist, *a licensed physician assistant, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner working pursuant to the order or direction of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, a licensed chiropractor, or a licensed optometrist,* individuals who have a disease or disorder, impairment, activity limitation or participation restriction that interferes with their ability to function independently in daily life roles and to promote health and wellness."

This is the identical language found in the physical therapy law as passed by the legislature in 2004. This amendment would allow a licensed physician assistant, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner working pursuant to the order or direction of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, or a licensed chiropractor in addition to the professionals already authorized to make referrals, to refer patients to an occupational therapist.

Since the enactment of the law affording PTs these referrals we have had many requests for OTs to be able to take these same referrals from a licensed physician assistant, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner working pursuant to the order or direction of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, or a licensed chiropractor.

To our knowledge there is no objection to this amendment. *Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this matter.*