

January 26, 2025

To the Members of the Technical Review Committee,

The Nebraska State Athletic Trainers' Association (NSATA) would like to express our support of the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association's (NOTA) proposed language received on January 22, 2025. The NSATA's advocacy for the advancement of healthcare professionals aligns with NOTA's goal of updating the Occupational Therapy Statute, which hasn't been revised in over 20 years. This collaborative effort between the two organizations demonstrates a commitment to improving healthcare services and prioritizing public safety in Nebraska.

The NSATA appreciates the NOTA's careful consideration of public safety in their proposed language regarding physical agent modalities. The NSATA supports the pathway where occupational therapists who received education and training on physical agent modalities in their entry-level education can continue to utilize these skills. The NSATA also supports the pathway that allows occupational therapists who did not receive this training in their entry-level program to gain the necessary knowledge and skills through additional education and training. This ensures that all practitioners, regardless of their initial educational background, meet the required competency levels. The NSATA strongly agrees with NOTA's stance on requiring additional training and certification for instrument-assisted modalities such as dry needling. These procedures often involve greater risks and require specialized knowledge and skills. By implementing these pathways, NOTA demonstrates a commitment to both maintaining the high standards of occupational therapy practice and ensuring public safety.

We appreciate NOTA reaching out to have a meeting with the NSATA. Our only concern with our initial meeting was with the word "diagnose" in "diagnose occupational conditions". The addition of the clarifying language, "A license does not authorize a license holder to diagnose a medical condition or disease," effectively addresses NSATA's concern. This amendment ensures that the scope of practice for occupational therapists is clearly defined and that there is no ambiguity regarding their diagnostic authority. By addressing this concern, NOTA demonstrates a commitment to clear and concise legislation that accurately reflects the scope of practice for occupational therapists in Nebraska.

The NSATA would like to express its opposition to LB630, citing discrepancies between the bill's language and the previously proposed language from the Credentialing Review on January 22nd. The NSATA is concerned about the lack of communication regarding the introduction of LB630. This lack of transparency has raised concerns within the organization. The NSATA wants to ensure that the final legislation reflects the best interests of public safety and the healthcare profession. We believe that any changes to the Occupational Therapy Practice Act should be carefully considered and developed through a transparent and inclusive process.



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