



BUILDING BRIDGES
PEDIATRIC THERAPY SERVICES

Building Bridges Pediatric Therapy Services
2326 Goddard Parkway, Suite E
Salisbury, MD 21801

January 21, 2021

Dear Senator Carozza:

I am writing to thank you for your support and advocacy regarding the Interstate Professional Licensing Compact for Occupational Therapists. This legislation will be extremely beneficial in many ways.

I am the owner of Building Bridges Pediatric Therapy Services in Salisbury, MD and Easton, MD. We provide occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and physical therapy to the children of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This is also the Delmarva Peninsula which as you know includes Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. There are a few situations recently where this compact would have been beneficial.

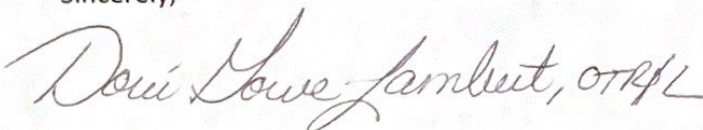
When the pandemic began, we had to immediately close our clinics and change our entire service delivery model to telehealth. This faced us with many challenges of course, but one was that we had clients whose residence was technically the Eastern Shore of Virginia or Delaware. Due to current licensure laws, we were unable to provide continuity of care to them as our therapists (licensed in Maryland) could not deliver services via telehealth to children who are physically in their homes in the neighboring states of Delaware and Virginia. I had to write to those licensure boards in the other states and request special permission in order for those children to continue with their much needed services. This took weeks and disrupted their plan of care.

As a pediatric private practice owner, it is very difficult here on the Eastern Shore to locate and hire therapists from our area that are trained in pediatrics. This is an issue with all disciplines

including speech-language pathology and physical therapy as well. This leaves the families and children with needs without available services. If this Interstate Professional Licensing Compact for Occupational Therapists were to pass, therapists that are licensed in our neighboring states may be more willing to consider employment in our rural areas of Maryland.

Again, I am so grateful for your support and advocacy in trying to help our families receive their much needed services. Feel free to contact me at any time if I clarify anything or be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorri Gowe-Lambert, OTR/L". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dorri Gowe-Lambert, OTR/L

Owner/ Occupational Therapist

Building Bridges Pediatric Therapy Services