



September 17, 2017

Heather Stagliano DHSc, OTR/L  
Associate Chief Officer for Accreditation  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
4720 Montgomery Ln  
Bethesda MD 20814

Dear Ms. Stagliano

**Re: Concerns about the ACOTE® 2027 Mandate**

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) to express our concerns regarding the impact of the ACOTE® 2027 Mandate on occupational therapy practitioners and consumers in the state of Maryland. As I am sure you are aware, we currently have three occupational therapy assistant (OTA) programs in our state, two of which are located in very rural areas. These are areas in which we have a shortage of practitioners resulting in difficulties in meeting the occupational therapy needs of consumers. Because Maryland does not allow our community colleges to issue baccalaureate degrees we are concerned that these programs will be forced to close resulting in further disparities for the residents in these communities.

In addition, we are concerned about the impact of this decision on the diversity of the occupational therapy profession in the state of Maryland. Many students who enroll in the OTA programs do so for financial reasons as well as reasons associated with their current life situations, both of which can preclude them from pursuing a higher level degree. This may have a negative impact on the social, ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, and age related diversity that we believe enhances the practice of occupational therapy in this state and allows practitioners to more closely mirror the population served.

Thank you in advance for your acknowledgement of our concerns. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [keglseder@towson.edu](mailto:keglseder@towson.edu) or 410-704-4305.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kate Eglseder'.

Kate Eglseder ScD, OTR/L, CLT  
President  
Maryland Occupational Therapy Association