

# American Occupational Therapy Association

33 WEST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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December 12, 1947

Miss Ruth W. Brunyate, OTR  
Director of Occupational Therapy  
Children's Rehabilitation Institute, Inc.  
Cockeysville, Maryland

Dear Miss Brunyate,

I wanted to thank you personally for your informative letter of December 8 to my secretary, Miss Dorothy Deer. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the effort you took to advise us so completely with regard to this situation.

Matters do not sound overly optimistic with regard to the subject of legislation and it is particularly depressing to realize that so much time is necessary to effecting any change. I think your group is to be congratulated on the stand they have taken and I trust that your efforts will be successful in the future.

We have written for a copy of the Maryland Medical Practice Act from the source to which you referred us and will pass it on to the group desiring it here in New York.

If there is anything which the Association can do to be of help to you in this or other matters, I hope you will not hesitate to write us.

Sincerely yours,

*Wilma L. West*

Wilma L. West, OTR  
Executive Director

WLW:edd

December 8, 1947

Miss E. Dorothy Deer, O.T.R.  
Secretary  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
33 West 42nd Street  
New York 18, New York

Dear Miss Deer:

A copy of the Maryland Medical Practice Act may be obtained from the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty Library, 1211 Cathedral Street.

Legislation in Maryland is now at a complete standstill. The Maryland occupational therapists cooperated fully with the physical therapists in the struggle for legislation this year. A bill was drawn up by the physical therapists and presented to the legislative body. Yet in some manner, between the time it was drawn and it was printed, a rider was added which completely killed the value of the bill.

We then went to the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty advisors on physical and occupational therapy and urged them to help us kill the bill. Our efforts were not successful, so Maryland physical therapists now have bad legislation instead of no legislation.

Various members have joined in a corporation which does not use the name "physical therapy" in an effort to dodge the bill. They urged Maryland occupational therapy members to join them in this corporation. This we refused to do; we felt we were not well enough acquainted with the legality of the situation to warrant endangering our position for the sake of increasing the

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the physical therapist support. At the moment there is no prospect of legislation for occupational therapy. The Chirurgical Faculty, however, is well aware that the physical therapists have spent ten years and a great deal of money, plus a lot of the Faculty time, on obtaining a poor bill. This makes us feel that there is a great possibility of their opening a Medical Practice Act at a future date to include physical and occupational therapy. We feel that we have made a major gain in bringing about this frame of mind.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Brunyate, O.T.R.  
Director of Occupational Therapy

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