



Occupational Therapy Association of California: Letter of Neutrality

The mission of OTAC is to support, promote, and serve the profession of occupational therapy and its practitioners. OTAC continues to be an evolving organization with the purpose of supporting the occupational therapy profession and practitioners in California. With over 22,000 practitioners and 40 occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant programs, OTAC recognizes the responsibility of serving the needs of our profession and holding accountability to integrate and advocate for diversity, equity, inclusion, and occupational justice (DEIOJ) in our everyday practices. To adhere to these actions, it is essential that OTAC honors the right and safety of free speech by abstaining from providing positional stances on current political and social matters.

OTAC recognizes that occupational therapy is non-partisan and addresses social issues in daily practice. OTAC encourages practitioners and students to intentionally engage in conversations and actions that support individual and community occupational rights and justice. To promote inclusive spaces for people to share their perspectives, OTAC will refrain from posting statements or taking positions in political or social issues unless there are direct involvements to the organization's operations or mission in serving the occupational therapy profession in California. Refraining from these statements is OTAC's responsibility in allowing freedom of speech and preventing the consequence of silencing the ideas of others.

Abstaining from providing positional statements is not a justification for the organization to be a bystander in issues impacting the occupational therapy profession and DEIOJ. OTAC will continue to embrace its role in connecting the occupational therapy community, supporting the establishment and growth of occupational therapy in various settings, and advocating and integrating DEIOJ practice in all aspects of occupational therapy practice. OTAC must pursue these commitments with the guidance of our members, to ensure the organization's actions align with the needs of the community.

Let's continue to move forward as a collective, support one another in our similarities and differences, and unite our efforts to support the growth and impact of the occupational therapy profession to improve the health and well-being of our communities.

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