

August 15, 2016

The Honorable Patrick Morrissey
West Virginia Attorney General
State Capitol Complex
Building 1, Room 26E
Charleston, WV 25305

RE: Best Practices for Prescribing and Dispensing Opioids

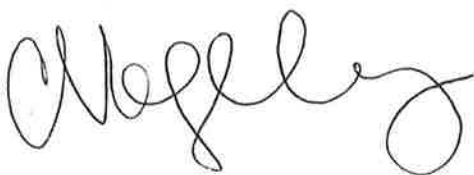
Dear Attorney General Morrissey:

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the national professional association representing the interests of more than 213,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students of occupational therapy. The practice of occupational therapy is science-driven, evidence-based, and enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by promoting health and minimizing the functional effects of illness, injury, and disability.

On behalf of AOTA, I am writing to express our support for the Best Practices for Prescribing and Dispensing of Opioids that were developed by your office. AOTA strongly believes that occupational therapy is an effective alternative treatment for managing chronic pain. Evidence has shown that occupational therapy can help people learn to manage the physical and psychological effects of chronic pain and lead active and productive lives. By utilizing occupational therapy as an alternative treatment for chronic pain, West Virginia would be able to reduce the prescription of opioids and help to stem this deadly epidemic.

AOTA looks forward to working with you in this initiative. Please contact me at cvogeley@aota.org or 301/652-6611 x 1913 if you have questions or need additional information about any other issues related to the practice of occupational therapy.

Sincerely,



Chrissy Vogeley
Manager, State Affairs

Cc: Sarah Black
President, West Virginia Occupational Therapy Association