

NYSOTA Talking Points

New York State Occupational Therapy Association

Workers' Compensation Services by Occupational Therapy Assistants and Physical Therapist Assistants

**A.3753 by Assembly member Zebrowski
S.3969 by Senator Kennedy**

Currently the workers' compensation law only covers services by an occupational therapist and a physical therapist, not when the treatment is provided by an occupational therapy assistant or a physical therapist assistant.

We believe that this was an unfortunate oversight when section 13-b of the Workers' Compensation Law was written.

Occupational therapy assistants and physical therapy assistants are an important part of the health care delivery system. And valued members of the rehabilitation team.

Therapy assistants work under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

They can contribute to the evaluation of the injured worker and collaborate with the supervising occupational therapist in developing a treatment plan and providing rehabilitation services that are focused on returning the injured worker to the job.

By hiring therapy assistants, rehabilitation providers can fill positions that are hard to get therapists to fill and it helps reduce the over-all cost of services.

Services provided by therapy assistants are already covered by Medicare, Medicaid and many private insurers. It only makes sense to include Workers' Compensation coverage as well.

A.3753 was passed by the Assembly twice and S.3969 was passed by the Senate last year.

I would like to ask the Assembly member/Senator to support this legislation.