



## **OPPOSE BUDGET CUTS TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES**

**Date of Call to Action: May 27, 2020**

California Governor Newsom introduced the revised 2020-21 State Budget this past week which includes significant budget cuts across the board due to the resulting recession from the current State of Emergency. Additionally, California is anticipating an increase in individuals enrolled in the Medi-Cal healthcare system of up to two million persons. As such, the Governor has included a proposal to eliminate the coverage of adult occupational therapy services under Medi-Cal services. Other services being eliminated or modified in this proposal include dental services, audiology services, speech therapy, physical therapy, podiatric services, optometric and optician/optical lab services, diabetes prevention programs, and screening, brief intervention, referral to treatments for opioids and other drugs.

OTAC strongly opposes this budget proposal and urges our members to take action **now**. These cuts may significantly reduce the access to covered occupational therapy services under the Medi-Cal healthcare system for adults of all ages at a time when access to essential healthcare services is imperative. It is vital that all members reach out to their own Assemblymember and Senator as well as the members on the Budget subcommittees listed below. Identify your personal Assemblymember and Senator at [www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov) and submit via their websites. If your Assemblymember and/or Senator is listed below, please note in your letter that you are their constituent.

Please use the template letter provided [here](#), filling in the italicized portions, and submit your letter using the links below.

Please also copy OTAC at [execdir@otaonline.org](mailto:execdir@otaonline.org).

**Questions?** Email the OTAC Advocacy and Government Affairs Chair Lauren Lopez, OTD, OTR/L.

**Governor** - Gavin Newsom - <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>

### **Senate Subcommittee 3 Members**

Richard Pan - [Senator.Pan@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Pan@sen.ca.gov)

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**Senate Pro Tem** - Toni Atkins - [Senator.Atkins@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Atkins@sen.ca.gov)

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