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Dear Ministers and Gentlemen

Occupational Therapy services

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) is astounded at the proposed discriminatory actions by government to reduce the access to occupational therapy (OT) at a time when the needs of Greek citizens for OT are the greatest. Furthermore the revised payment for the allowed services, is as low as 1/10 of that to other health professions with similar entry level education but much narrower scopes of practice.

Occupational therapists are the generalists called for as far back as 2009 by the OECD in its report on the Greek health system within its economic survey of the country.

The proposed decisions for cost cutting lacks any fundamental justification based on the existing evidence and negates the accepted developments in rehabilitation advocated by the World Health Organization that call for integrated and holistic service for individuals with difficulty in functioning (disability). The estimates the WHO/World Bank World report on disability (2011) is that 15% of the world's population is disabled in some form and that this will increase with an aging population and the increased incidence of non-communicable diseases

(NCD) and the environmental factors affecting health. This is the profile of Greece.

The Hellenic Association of Ergotherapists have put forth a strong argument on why the proposals under consideration will actually increase the costs to the health and social systems and that the denigrating of occupational services is a human rights issue as it denies an enabling approach to a recovery process and is inequitable. It also represents a risk to the losing of valuable human capital of patients and service providers.

In a health system desperate to maintain effective services while drastically reducing costs, occupational therapists should be used more broadly and access to their services increased not decreased.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E Sharon Brintnell', written in dark ink.

E Sharon Brintnell
President and Professor