AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT PATIENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST UNDER THEIR HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 58-50-30(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read: "§ 58-50-30. Right to choose services of certain providers. 

... 

(b) This section applies to the following provider types: 

... 

(16) An occupational therapist licensed by the North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy pursuant to Article 18D of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes."

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 2017, and applies to health benefit contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 24th day of May, 2017.

s/ Bill Rabon  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

s/ Tim Moore  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Roy Cooper  
Governor

Approved 9:39 a.m. this 2nd day of June, 2017