



May 4, 2020

Representative Rena Moran, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services Policy
575 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Representative Debra Kiel, Republican Lead
Committee on Health and Human Services Policy
255 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Moran and Representative Kiel,

APTA Minnesota represents and advocates for over 5,000 physical therapists (PTs), physical therapist assistants (PTAs) and students of each discipline in Minnesota. On behalf of Minnesota's PT professionals, we are writing to thank you for allowing the A5 amendment to be offered to the DE1 amendment to H.F. 3727, the omnibus HHS policy bill.

Physical therapy professionals are still providing essential services to patients across the state even though they and their patients face risks from COVID-19. Some are providing in-person care and others are providing telehealth services or a blend of the two. In our long term care facilities in particular, patients still have access to PTs and PTAs who are working hard to keep individuals out of emergency rooms and hospitals, even at their own personal risk.

Under current law, supervision requirements for PTAs include an on-site observation visit by a PT who must witness the care and document its appropriateness every six visits. This on-site requirement sends a second provider into the rooms of patients, increasing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for all parties.

The A5 amendment provides that only for the duration of the emergency, observation of a PTA by a PT may be performed by telehealth. It allows the PT to continue to provide oversight of a care extender while limiting the exposure of both patients and providers. This is a public safety provision.

Again, thank you for allowing the A5 amendment to be offered. We encourage you and Committee members to adopt it.

Sincerely,

Anne M Jansa PT, DPT *Kathleen Picard* PT

Anne Johnson PT, DPT and Kathleen Picard PT, Legislative Co-Chairs