



Minnesota House of Representatives
Health Finance and Policy Committee
Re: HF 3240 Physical Therapy Access Bill
March 4, 2022

Dear Committee members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA MN), thank you for this opportunity to respond to the position of opposition by the Minnesota Acupuncture Association (MAA) to HF 3240, the Access to PT Bill.

We would like to correct two statements that are at the core of MAA's opposition. MAA claims that existing law does not allow physical therapists (PT) to diagnose. They also assert that under current law PTs can only perform assessments and evaluations based on an "existing diagnosis."

The PT Practice act currently does NOT require a referral for the initial treatment nor after 90 days for:

- 1) Prevention, wellness, education, or exercise
- 2) Patients for whom a previous diagnosis exists indicating an ongoing condition warranting PT

What remains are those patients who sought out PT without a referral and who require treatment beyond 90 days, even if the patient is benefitting from the PT services.

The authority to evaluate and consult without referral was put in statute in 1980 and in 1985, treatment was added. So, for nearly 40 years, PTs in Minnesota have been permitted to make a physical therapy diagnosis and deliver interventions without physician referral, and to identify those situations where the expertise of physicians is required.

There is no credible evidence being offered by MAA to support their concerns for the safety of patients.

Patients should not be subject to unnecessary regulations that limit their choices and cost them money. No harm to patients. No reason to maintain access barriers to Physical Therapists.

APTA MN welcomes the opportunity to further discuss MAA's concerns should they be willing to do so.

Please do not hesitate to contact APTA MN if you have questions regarding our comments.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Clynch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Clynch PT, DPT, MA

President, APTA MN

hmclynch@stkate.edu

612-590-0904