

February 19, 2008

The Honorable Michael P. Sturla
Chair, House Professional Licensure Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
P.O. Box 202020
Room 333, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

The Honorable Michael P. Sturla
Chair, House Professional Licensure Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
8 North Queen Street
Suite 1100, The Griest Building
Lancaster, PA 17603

RE: HB 2015, PN 2844

Dear Mike:

As you are aware, we represent the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association ("PPTA"). The PPTA would like to take this opportunity to thank the House Professional Licensure Committee ("Committee") for offering it the opportunity to testify at the Public Hearing on House Bill 2015, PN 2844 (HB 2015) scheduled for March 19, 2008. After reviewing HB 2015, the PPTA will not oppose the bill as written. For this reason, the PPTA does not feel compelled to testify at the hearing but would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the PPTA's position regarding the licensure of orthotists, prosthetists, orthotic fitters and pedorthists, as previously stated in the PPTA's testimony on House Bill 401, PN 426 (HB 401) presented September 19, 2006. HB 401 was the previous bill introduced last session that addressed the licensure of orthotists, prosthetists and pedorthists. The PPTA's position is set forth below.

Licensed physical therapists are trained and educated to evaluate and treat the musculoskeletal system with a focus on restoring proper movement and function. When integrated into a comprehensive physical therapy treatment plan, orthotics play an important role in the treatment of various musculoskeletal and mechanical problems. Prosthetics and orthotics course work are included within a physical therapist's education and training and the definition of physical therapy in the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Practice Act provides the legal basis for physical therapists to utilize such training and education in this area.

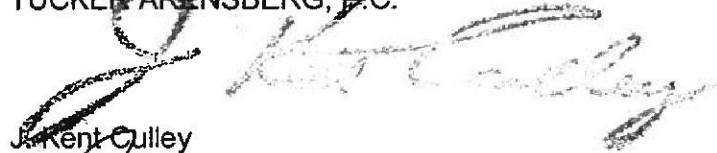
The Honorable Michael P. Sturla
February 19, 2008
Page 2

As you may recall, the PPTA was opposed to HB 401 as written in part because it failed to include licensed physical therapists within the exemption section of the legislation. The PPTA had significant concerns that without this exemption the practice of physical therapy would be improperly limited. HB 2015 adds physical therapists to the list of professionals included in the section now titled "Exception". For this reason, the PPTA is not opposed to HB 2015 in its current form, but reserves the right to raise concerns at a later time if this legislation is altered.

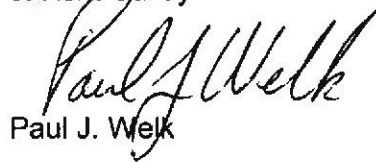
Thank you for allowing the PPTA to provide input regarding this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions concerning the PPTA's position on HB 2015.

Very truly yours,

TUCKER ARENSBERG, P.C.



J. Kent Culley



Paul J. Welk

PJW:dms

c: Geraldine M. Grzybek, P.T., GCS, President, PPTA (via e-mail)
Jim Dawes, Communications Director, House Professional Licensure Committee
(via e-mail)