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Finance Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB0047 - State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Revisions

Madame Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Fellow Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SB0047 modernizes a few aspects of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. In particular, it would:

1. Clarify that in order to be considered a physical therapist assistant, one must be licensed by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.
2. Increase the number of physical therapist assistants on the Board from one to two, thereby increasing the total number of Board members to nine.
3. Require the Board to send renewal notices to licensees by electronic means, rather than first-class mail, unless the licensee requests to receive the renewal notice by first-class mail

These changes will enhance social and professional diversity, foster more informed and effective decision-making, and, by ensuring an odd number of Board members, eliminate the possibility of tie votes.

By providing the authority to amend the license renewal notification to electronic means as the primary notification format to the last known electronic mail address, the Board will reduce some of its administrative burden and provide a more convenient means of communication for its licensees.

Per the Fiscal Note, on balance, SB0047 would save the state a nominal amount per year (roughly \$3500) because special fund expenditures increase minimally for compensation for the additional board member and decrease minimally as a result of switching to electronic renewal notice procedures, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0047.