



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Good afternoon Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and esteemed members of the Health & Government Operations Committee. Below is my written testimony for HB210, State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - Temporary Licenses to Practice Physical Therapy and Limited Physical Therapy.

This is a very straightforward bill that would authorize the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners to issue temporary licenses to physical therapists and physical therapy assistants who have met eligibility requirements for licensure but have not yet taken and passed the national licensure exam. They would work under the direct supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist for a limited period of time pending their passing of the examination.

This legislation previously existed in Maryland but was repealed after the examination schedule was switched from a fixed date to a rolling date. However, the examination is back to being a fixed date examination making this legislation once again necessary. This bill was submitted last year and made it through the Senate, but due to the early adjournment of the 2020 Legislative Session it did not make it through on the House side of the General Assembly.

Implementing this legislation would help physical therapists and physical therapy assistants get to work immediately once eligibility requirements have been met. It would be a benefit for them economically as they would not be caught in this space where all they are waiting on is their official licensure, and it would be a benefit for their employers who would be able to immediately utilize their services and give them hands-on training.

I would like to thank you all for considering this bill, and I would like to thank the Board of Physical Exam Therapists for their support and testimony, and I urge you to give this bill a favorable review.