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January 26, 2021

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 309 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

The American Physical Therapy Association Maryland is writing to register our strong support of House Bill 309.

The bill will require the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collaborate with the Maryland Health Care Commission to publish a report card that includes racial and ethnic composition data on individuals other than only physicians, who hold a license or certificate issued by a health occupations board. It will require the Office, as permitted by certain privacy laws, to respond to requests for health data that includes race and ethnicity information within 30 days of receipt of the request.

The data collected will be useful with respect to efforts to better understand and improve health equity, particularly in the public health arena. Without meaningful data about the provider workforce, efforts to address inequities and remove barriers to care will not be as effective or efficient.

We see firsthand the barriers and challenges that must be overcome to receive the care that keeps people healthy, and out of the hospital and long-term care settings.

Again, on behalf of the 1,752 members of APTA Maryland, we ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 309. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our feedback.

Sincerely,



Kevin Platt, PT, DPT, MBA
President, APTA Maryland