



**Testimony of Megan Urick, PT, DPT
President of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association**

**In support of
S.F. 1322, Physical therapy interstate licensure compact establishment**

Chairperson Wiklund and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee:

My name is Megan Urick, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and I am the President of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA MN). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.F. 1322 concerning Minnesota joining the Physical Therapy (PT) Interstate Licensure Compact.

We are fully supportive of Minnesota joining the PT Compact along with 36 states, including all 4 of our neighboring states. APTA MN is excited about the Compact because it is good not only for physical therapists and our patients, but also for Minnesota businesses and the state's economy.

As you know, the PT Compact is an interstate agreement between member states to provide a state-developed collaborative structure to protect the public by increasing consumer access to PT services by reducing regulatory barriers to interstate mobility and cross-state practice. Currently, 36 states and the District of Columbia have approved the PT Compact and are either issuing privileges or are in the final stages of their rollout.

Physical Therapist (PT) and Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) licensees who meet all eligibility requirements can purchase a Compact Privilege in a Compact member state and, in most cases, start practicing physical therapy in that state almost immediately, pending necessary jurisprudence exams. The PT Compact's online system makes the process of purchasing and renewing a Compact Privilege in other states simple. The PT Compact's system also makes it easy for patients to verify the status of a Compact Privilege for their PT or PTA.

It is important to recognize that while it is simple to purchase a compact privilege, it is incumbent on the PT or PTA to know the scope of practice in any state in which they wish to practice. While the Compact makes license portability easier to attain, the licensee must

practice in accordance with any and all scope requirements in the state where the patient is located.

We have endorsements from a number of Minnesota stakeholders because the Compact is also in the best interest of Minnesota healthcare employers and payers. That's why we have the support of Mayo Clinic, Gillette Children's Hospital, CentraCare, Avera Health, Essentia Health and Health Plan Partnership of Minnesota. Healthcare provider shortages are all too common in 2024. Whether caused by public emergencies, like the pandemic, or with much simpler roots like maternity leaves and staff transitions, employers need to be able to find qualified providers quickly in order to avoid interrupting care. The Compact allows for greater flexibility in these situations. Companies like Essentia Health that have locations crossing state borders can more easily mobilize employees to fulfill patient needs without unnecessary red tape or expense.. Joining the Compact could also attract Compact state PTs to our state for permanent full-time positions, as it would allow them to start practicing here immediately while they apply for their regular PT license.

In the era of Telehealth, the PT Compact also allows providers to follow their patients to any other Compact state, as long as the state law in the patient's state allows. This is a significant benefit for snowbirds who leave Minnesota in the winter, college students who head home for summer break, or patients heading home to other states after having a complex surgery at a destination medical center in MN such as Mayo Clinic or Gillette Children's who have established physical therapy services in MN. Given the world-class nature of Minnesota's healthcare facilities, this opportunity for continuity of care is a real benefit.

Finally, for travel PT's living in Minnesota, having access to the PT Compact would be a significant professional advantage and makes our state an even more desirable home base. It is very difficult, time consuming, and financially taxing to practice in other states. Many states need PTs to practice in rural or underserved areas. Currently, PTs based in Minnesota face severe challenges filling these needs because of the difficulty obtaining licenses for any given state in a timely manner. And vice versa - MN job openings in underserved areas are harder to fill with out-of-state PTs when necessary if we aren't a Compact state. Historically, a PT would have to hold numerous PT licenses to be able to practice in as many states as possible.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. We are not aware of any opposition to this bill. We have had several meetings with the MN Board of PT and they are neutral on MN joining the PT Compact. I look forward to continuing to work with the Members throughout this legislative session.

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APTA MN Chapter President