



February 25, 2025

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2107
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund,

I am writing on behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association – Minnesota Chapter in support of your legislation, S.F. 1402, which seeks to address the woefully inadequate payments to providers who serve Medical Assistance patients.

The APTA-Minnesota Chapter represents over 6,500 physical therapists, 1,700 physical therapist assistants and 500 PT and PTA students enrolled in one of the eleven accredited DPT and PTA programs in Minnesota. The number of PTs and PTAs in Minnesota is growing each year in response to the growing demand for physical therapy services.

Physical therapists are licensed doctors who work with multiple patient populations impacted by disease, injury and movement dysfunction. They optimize quality of life by maintaining, restoring and improving the ability of their patients to move, function and live more active lifestyles. They examine, diagnose and treat individuals of all ages, from newborns to people at the end of life. They save the health care system and public programs money by helping patients avoid expensive surgeries and prescription drugs. PTs and PTAs practice in hospitals and clinics, schools, nursing and veterans homes and workplaces.

Minnesota's Medical Assistance payment rates for physical therapy services are the lowest in our region and are among the lowest in America. MA payments do not cover the cost of providing care. This puts providers of PT services in financial jeopardy, which threatens access for commercial and Medicare patients as well as MA patients. If patients do not have access to physical therapy, their only option for treatment is surgery and drugs, which cost far more.

S.F. 1402 takes long-needed steps to address this problem. It will help assure continued access to physical therapy services for not only the over 1 million MA enrollees in Minnesota but also for Medicare and commercially-insured patients.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Megan Urick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Megan Urick, PT, DPT - APTA MN Chapter President