



S.970/H.R. 2802

#ACCESS2PT

Letter Template

As your constituent, I urge you to please co-sponsor S. 970/H.R. 2802. With the enactment of this important bipartisan legislation, physical therapists are added to the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), which will increase the availability of rehabilitation services for individuals in rural and underserved areas.

Physical therapists play an important role in the evaluation and treatment of vestibular (inner ear and brain) dysfunction. With improved access to physical therapy, patients suffering from vertigo and other accompanying symptoms can reduce the time it takes to get relief from their symptoms and decrease their risk of falls, which have the potential of incurring serious injury. By increasing access to physical therapy, the patient may also reduce the number of doctor/specialist visits needed, significantly reducing health care costs.

Currently, there is no physical rehabilitation care component within the NHSC, a piece that could greatly complement the current program to promote health across the continuum of care. Adding physical therapists to the NHSC will also ensure that individuals in rural and underserved areas have access to nonpharmacological options for the prevention, treatment, and management of pain. Physical therapy is an essential component of the multidisciplinary undertaking that will be required to improve patient outcomes and alter the trajectory of the current opioid crisis.

The NHSC addresses the health needs of more than 11.4 million underserved individuals across the nation. As essential members of the health care team, physical therapists play an important role in the prevention and management of pain as well as chronic diseases and conditions that can impact an individual's quality of life and ability to work in his or her community, including diabetes, stroke, and obesity. Adding physical therapists to NHSC will incentivize a broader delivery of care in health professional shortage areas.

Again, I urge you to please co-sponsor S. 970/H.R. 2802.

Thank you for considering my views.

VESTIBULAR DISORDERS ASSOCIATION