



Michigan Physical Therapy Association, 124 West Allegan Street, Suite 1900, Lansing, MI 48933

October 7, 2020

TO: Senator VanderWall and Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee

RE: SUPPORT Senate Bill 22- Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

Dear Senator VanderWall and Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee,

The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, or PTLC, is a state-based solution to the challenges of interstate licensure portability for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. It improves patient access to physical therapy services in the state of Michigan by giving eligible licensees in participating states an easier and faster alternative to traditional licensure, while retaining safeguards to protect the public.

The PTLC helps meet workforce needs, provides greater consumer access to specialty physical therapy care, and addresses licensure portability issues.

To date, 28 states have enacted legislation to participate in PTLC, and 20 of those have already begun issuing compact privileges.

Licensure Compacts exist for other licensed health professionals for the same reasons. Just two examples:

- Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – 25 member states issuing compact licenses
 - <https://www.imlcc.org/participating-states/>
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing - 33 member states issuing compact licenses
 - <https://www.ncsbn.org/compacts.htm>

The field of physical therapy continues to evolve into growing areas of specialization allowing patients to receive the best care by experts in their field, including areas such as neurology, pediatrics, pain neuroscience, cancer, and women's health. By creating a streamlined mechanism for licensed PTs and PTAs to practice across state lines, the PTLC will:

- Help connect consumers with the specialized physical therapy services they need.
- Promotes public protection and enables the sharing of background checks and disciplinary data among member states.
- Improve the PT business friendliness perception in MI.
- The compact does *not* change the scope of practice for PTs or the scope of work for PTAs in Michigan in any way.



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- There is **broad support** for the PTLC ranging from consumer groups to policy organizations
 - *The American Telemedicine Association*
 - *Citizen Advocacy Center*
 - *Federation of State Medical Boards*
 - *National Association for the Support of Long Term Care*
- Provide substantial benefits for military spouses and families, making it easier for military family members who are PTs to get licensed when they receive a transfer of station.
 - In fact, the Department of Defense is aware of SB 22, and urges you to support it.

The PTLC required a minimum of 10 jurisdictions to pass the legislation.

- **20 States have already enacted this legislation (AR, AZ, CO, IA, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, OK, OR, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV)**
- It has been introduced in 8 other states (passed 1 chamber in 3 states)

The PTLC governing body is the PT Compact Commission, made up of representatives of member jurisdictions, ensuring that all PTLC member jurisdictions are complying with PTLC rules and regulations. During this pandemic, new models of health care delivery must be developed, calling for increased access and mobility for both patients and providers. The Compact helps address workforce issues and new technologies and provides opportunities to improve access to care instead of creating a barrier at an individual state's borders.

It is important to note that by participating in the PTLC, the State of Michigan would NOT be relinquishing control of how the practice of physical therapy in Michigan is regulated or its ability to discipline those who provide care to Michigan's citizens.

PTLC language can be found through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy:
https://www.fsbpt.org/Portals/0/documents/free-resources/LicensureCompactLanguage_20151006.pdf

APTA Michigan respectfully asks that you SUPPORT SB 22.

Sincerely,

Jena Colon, PT, DPT, MBA
Legislative Director
APTA Michigan