

  
American Physical Therapy Association  
Colorado Chapter

Dr Cameron W MacDonald PT DPT  
President of the CO APTA.  
APTA CO – Testimony

Committee Members,

Please accept this written testimony on behalf of the Colorado Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. Dr Cameron MacDonald, President of the CO APTA.

I submit to you our considerations on the proposed amendment to the Colorado Occupational Therapist Practice Act which would strike from the exclusions the language which references a prohibition of Occupational Therapists providing “physical therapy” under 12-270-11.

APTA CO, which represents close to 3000 members, considers this a complex issue, and reflective of a need to modernize language in practice acts to state positively what a profession does and not what it does not. Further to this we note that this language is addressing an issue that is covered in other areas of statute; and could also be addressed at the Regulatory Board level.

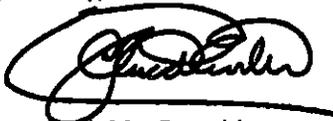
Our considered opinion as a Board is that an Occupational Therapist may provide a broad spectrum of modalities, interventions and other rehabilitative approaches under their management of patient health/care. In all these instances, our position is that the OT is providing occupational therapy, not physical or any other therapy, even when acting as an extender of another health care professional.

We do hold as given that unless licensed as a Physical Therapist the OT should not represent themselves as a Physical Therapist. We see many areas of overlap in the services/care we provide but we consider our professions separate and unique.

As such we consider the language in Article 12-270-111, which states “*physical therapy, as defined in article 285 of this title 12;*” to be redundant, as an OT is always providing OT services.

Given our viewpoint, the Board of the CO APTA has elected to be neutral on the removal of this language at this time, as our OT colleagues move forward in their sunset process.

Respectfully,



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