



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

**BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2580
Toll free fax: 907.465.2974

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

The Alaska State Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy would like to thank you for introducing SB 47. These changes have been a priority for the Board for many years, and will help us in our work to protect the public.

This bill provides for amendments to the governing statutes for physical therapists and occupational therapists practicing in Alaska. The amendments are primarily technical in nature and are designed to bring Alaska statutes in line with current national standards and terminology. This includes removal of organizations that no longer accredit the professional degree programs. SB 47 recognizes that both professions have grown since these statutes were first enacted and are independent of physician supervision. This bill better prepares the Board as we move into the future.

The Board supports SB 47, and feels that these changes are in the best interests of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Kostik".

Ruth Kostik, Chair
Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy



February, 26, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Alaska Physical Therapy Association supports SB47: "An Act relating to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; relating to the practice of physical therapy; and relating to the practice of occupational therapy." This bill provides many needed changes to the existing statutes, and will bring Alaska in line with national standards and terminology.

We are particularly happy to see proposed changes to language referring to Physical Therapist Assistants. Currently, Alaskan Physical Therapist Assistants are referred to as Physical Therapy Assistants, a term that has not been used by the American Physical Therapy Association since 1969. Further, given that entry-level degrees for both Physical and Occupational Therapy are doctorates, and that neither Physical or Occupational Therapists are required to practice under a physician's supervision, it is appropriate to remove the physician from the Licensing Board and to replace that seat with another representative of Occupational Therapy.

In all, we believe that the proposed changes will not only bring the language in the statutes up to date, but will remove some barriers to practice for people wishing to practice in Alaska, particularly graduates of foreign programs taught in English.

We are grateful for your sponsorship and support of this bill, and thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska's citizens.

Sincerely,

LeeAnne Carrothers

LeeAnne Carrothers, PT, PhD
President, Alaska Physical Therapy Association

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 47 -- "An Act relating to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; relating to the practice of physical therapy; and relating to the practice of occupational therapy." -- Support

Dear Senator Giessel:

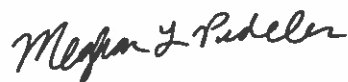
The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the national professional association representing the interests of more than 213,000 occupational therapists, students of occupational therapy, and occupational therapy assistants. The practice of occupational therapy is science-driven, evidence-based, and enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by promoting health and minimizing the functional effects of illness, injury, and disability. On behalf of AOTA, I am writing to you in support of SB 47: An Act relating to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; relating to the practice of physical therapy; and relating to the practice of occupational therapy.

As you know, SB 47 proposes to revise qualifications for licensing for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. The bill also clarifies requirements for foreign-educated applicants and changes the composition of the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board. AOTA supports these proposed changes to current law.

AOTA has worked with state occupational therapy associations for more than 40 years to advocate for state licensure laws in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. We strongly support the role of state government in regulating the practice of occupational therapy and are pleased to support these proposed changes and urge the legislature to pass SB 47.

Please contact me at 301-652-6611 x1921 or via email at mpudeler@aota.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Meghan Pudeler
Manager, State Affairs

Cc: Scotty Orr, OTD, OTR/L
President, Alaska Occupational Therapy Association

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 47: "An Act relating to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; relating to the practice of physical therapy; and relating to the practice of occupational therapy."

Dear Senator Giessel:

On behalf of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT®) I am writing in support of Senate Bill 47.

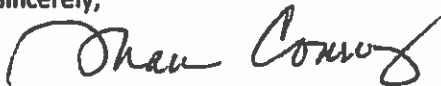
As the national credentialing agency for the profession of occupational therapy NBCOT certifies individuals who have demonstrated the knowledge required for competent and safe occupational therapy practice at the OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST REGISTERED OTR® or CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT COTA® level. NBCOT's OTR and COTA certifications are accredited by two distinct agencies – the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The mission of NBCOT is to serve the public interest by advancing client care and professional practice through evidence-based certification standards and the validation of knowledge essential for effective practice in occupational therapy.

The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) recognize and approve of the NBCOT OTR and COTA certification examinations as a requirement to obtain an initial license to practice occupational therapy in the state of Alaska. To help assure compliance with initial licensure application requirements, the Alaska Board of PT and OT also recognize and use NBCOT certification services including confirmation of exam eligibility, exam score transfers and verification of certification, as needed.

Having reviewed the proposed regulations, the NBCOT supports the Alaska PT and OT Board in their effort to clarify licensure application requirements for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants including internationally-educated occupational therapists. Occupational therapy licensing boards across the U.S. began relying on the NBCOT certification examination 44 years ago to determine entry-level practice competence. Currently, all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia require NBCOT initial certification for occupational therapy state regulation, e.g. licensing.

We hope this information is useful. Should you have questions, please contact me at shaun.conway@nbcot.org or (301) 990-7979 ext. 3129.

Sincerely,



Shaun Conway
Senior Director, External and Regulatory Affairs

Cc: Ruth Kostik, Chair
Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy



124 West Street South, Third Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-299-3100 | www.fsbpt.org

February 28, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

CC: Ruth Kostik, Chair of the Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

RE: Support of SB47

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of SB47 which makes much needed updates to the statute impacting physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. I am writing on behalf of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), of which, the Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy is a member. FSBPT is an organization made up of the 53 physical therapy licensing jurisdictions within the United States whose mission is to protect the public by providing service and leadership that promote safe and competent physical therapy practice. FSBPT is the owner and developer of the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE).

The proposed practice act updates in SB47 include:

- Change in the board composition
- Change term physical therapy assistants to physical therapist assistants
- Licensure qualifications for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants
- Licensure qualifications for foreign educated physical therapists and physical therapist assistants

The proposed board composition will better reflect the licensees the board serves. Physical therapist assistant is the proper term accepted by both the American Physical Therapy Association and FSBPT. The change in the language to licensure qualifications provides improved clarity in the statute.

FSBPT supports all of the above changes, however, would like to suggest one edit to the current bill language. Section 08.84.032.(3-4) notes the requirements to demonstrate English language proficiency as:

(3) pass an examination recognized by the board that measures the competence of the applicant in the English language if the applicant's physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education program was not taught in English;

(4) have met applicable requirements under 8 U.S.C. 1101 - 1503 (Immigration and Nationality Act) [THE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT (8 U.S.C. 1101 ET SEQ.)], unless a United States citizen;

To be eligible to sit for the NPTE, FSBPT also requires demonstration of English proficiency. However, FSBPT's requirements are more stringent than federal requirements. An individual may meet the federal guidelines but still not be eligible to take the NPTE. FSBPT recommends replacing the current bill text with the following language from the Model Practice Act for Physical Therapy (MPA), the preeminent standard for revising and

modernizing physical therapy practice acts, to allow the Board greater flexibility to determine how English proficiency should be demonstrated:

3. Pass a board-approved English proficiency examination as required by the board as further established by rule.

The rules can then be more specific to the requirements:

English Language Proficiency Requirement

(a) The approved English proficiency examination is the most recent Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL);

(b) The TOEFL minimum passing score is twenty-two (22) in writing; twenty-four (24) in speaking, twenty-two (22) in reading, and twenty-one (21) in listening. The minimum passing scores must be acquired in one test administration;

(c) Applicants who graduated from an educational program accredited by CAPTE or a college, university, or professional training school located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States are exempt from the English proficiency requirement.

Per the Board's request, the FSBPT is happy to provide testimony via telephone during public testimony in support of SB47. These changes are necessary to update the physical therapy practice act in Alaska. Again thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Nancy Kirsch, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA
President
Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy



Keeping Alaska Active

March, 26, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:


I am writing to give my support for SB47: "An Act relating to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; relating to the practice of physical therapy; and relating to the practice of occupational therapy." I believe this bill provides many needed changes to the existing statutes, and will bring Alaska in line with national standards and terminology.

I am particularly happy to see proposed changes to language referring to Physical Therapist Assistants. Currently, Alaskan Physical Therapist Assistants are referred to as Physical Therapy Assistants, a term that has not been used by the American Physical Therapy Association since 1969. Further, given that entry-level degrees for both Physical and Occupational Therapy are doctorates, and that neither Physical or Occupational Therapists are required to practice under a physician's supervision, it is appropriate to remove the physician from the Licensing Board and to replace that seat with another representative of Occupational Therapy.

In all, I believe that the proposed changes will not only bring the language in the statutes up to date, but will remove some barriers to practice for people wishing to practice in Alaska, particularly graduates of foreign programs taught in English.

I am grateful for your sponsorship and support of this bill, and thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska's citizens.

Sincerely,

 PT, DPT
Scott Parks Staff Physical Therapist

From: alec <alec@unitedpt.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 9:16 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; LeeAnne Carrothers <lcarrothers@alaska.edu>

Subject: SB47 Support

Senator Giessel,

I appreciate your sponsorship of SB-47. As a physical therapist who served on the State Licensing Board, I know how long this simple language has needed to be cleaned up. I support this bill in the fullest.

I am also the current president elect of the Alaska Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association and look forward to meeting with your chief of staff in support of this bill.

I have copied my representative in the house, Zack Fields, to express my support as well.

Thank you.

— new President of PT Assn.

**Alec Kay, MSPT, DMT, OCS, ATC, FAAOMPT
United Physical Therapy**

Phone: 929-8400

Fax: 929-8403

742 K St.

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

www.unitedpt.com

March, 26, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

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I am grateful for your sponsorship and support of this bill, and thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska's citizens.

Sincerely,

Shelly Warner, OTD, OTR/L, LSVT-BIG

Shelly Wa

March, 26, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

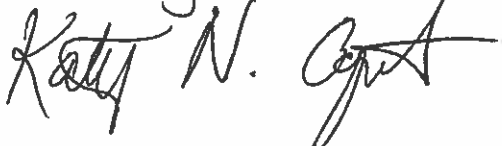
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Sincerely,

Katelyn Carpenter PT, DPT
 PT, DPT

March, 26, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

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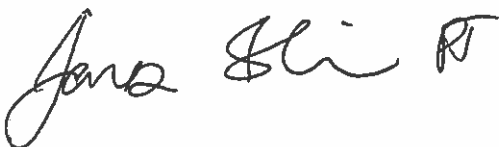
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I am grateful for your sponsorship and support of this bill, and thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska's citizens.

Sincerely,

James Sliwa, PT, DPT, CMTPT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Sliwa PT". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed name.

March, 26, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. [unclear] ASPT". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial letter.



cortlandreger <cortlandreger@gmail.com>

SB47

1 message

brian.malone@denalip.com <brian.malone@denalip.com> Fri, Apr 5, 2019 at 5:48 AM
 To: brian.malone@denalip.com, amanda.atwood@denalip.com, kara.kirschbaum@denalip.com,
 denton.scow@denalip.com, zachary.measel@denalip.com, john.decarlo@denalip.com, ashley.mcdonald@denalip.com,
 wesley.minton@denalip.com, jess.malone@excel-pt.com, rhonda.ray@excel-pt.com, jeffrey.porter@excel-pt.com,
 kyle.mills@excel-pt.com, holly.thomas@excel-pt.com, shannon.dempsey@excel-pt.com, casey.buckland@excel-pt.com,
 tzollinger@inspireak.com, Cortland Reger <cortlandreger@gmail.com>

Please join me and my team in showing our support for SB47. Once complete, you can email the letter to Jane
 Conway Jane.Conway@akleg.gov
 Thank you,
 Brian Malone

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 SB47 letter of support.pdf
 219K

April 8, 2019

To: Jane Conway

From: Reger Physical Therapy

March, 26, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing to give my support for SB47: "An Act relating to the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board; relating to the practice of physical therapy; and relating to the practice of occupational therapy." I believe this bill provides many needed changes to the existing statutes, and will bring Alaska in line with national standards and terminology.

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I am grateful for your sponsorship and support of this bill, and thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska's citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Parker". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the beginning and a smaller loop at the end.

Jeffrey Parker PT, DPT