



**Jennifer Caswell, PT, DPT, APTA-Kansas Chapter Legislative Chair
Proponent Testimony on HB 2279
February 23, 2021
House Health and Human Services Committee**

Madam Chair and Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas State Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2279. I am currently the legislative chair for APTA Kansas, the owner of a physical therapy clinic in Overland Park and serve as adjunct faculty at both Rockhurst University and St Mary's University in Leavenworth.

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 Kansas 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, 30 states have enacted legislation to participate in PTLC, and 20 of those have already begun issuing compact privileges including all states surrounding Kansas now.

We have had discussions with our PT Advisory Council, Federation State Boards of Physical Therapy, the Executive Director and the Executive Board of the KS Board of Healing Arts, and answered all questions that they had regarding PTLC. Initially there were some questions regarding safeguards for out-of-state clinicians coming to our state and treating patients here in Kansas. We have worked through concerns regarding malpractice insurance coverage and continuing education hours required to treat patients in Kansas. With this bill, anyone who treats patients must abide by our scope of practice. The compact does not change the scope of practice for PTs or the scope of work for PTAs in Kansas in any way. It is important to note that by participating in the PTLC, the State of Kansas would not be relinquishing control of how the practice of physical therapy in Kansas is regulated or its ability to discipline those who provide care to the citizens of Kansas.

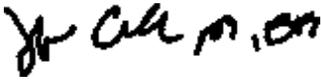
In regard to patient safety, a person with any encumbrances or disciplinary actions against their license within the past 2 years can not apply for the compact privilege. If a privilege is revoked in one member state, privileges to practice in other states are revoked too. It would also be important to note that to be in the Compact, we would be adding background checks and fingerprinting for all which would provide an extra layer of protection beyond what is currently required in Kansas.

In my role as adjunct faculty with both Rockhurst and St Mary's Universities, I hear from many students that they are considering living and working in the Kansas City metro area. For example, Missouri has adopted the PTLC and many graduates are planning to live in Missouri to take advantage of licensure portability. I believe that we should adopt this legislation so that we do not miss out on similar opportunities for our state.

In summary, the PT Compact process provides a safe pathway for qualified individuals to practice in our state. This simplified process maintains state jurisdictional sovereignty over practice, improves public protection, and increases efficiency for the state, it's PTs, and PTAs. I hope that you will vote to support this bill for the good of those who currently live and work, or who plan to live and work as PTs and PTAs in our states.

Thank you very much for your time today in consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Caswell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jennifer Caswell, PT, DPT