



Camille Snyder, PT, DPT, APTA-Kansas Chapter President
Neutral Testimony on HB 2206
February 9, 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 testify on HB 2206. APTA-Kansas recognizes the great opportunities that telemedicine offers, especially during these tough times. As a strong advocate of telemedicine, we are seeking an amendment to HB 2206 to recognize our profession within the other health care providers in this bill. Until that time, we unfortunately remain neutral on this bill. Our previous APTA-KS President, Susie Harms, testified in 2017 that we were neutral regarding HB 2512, which addressed telemedicine coverage parity. Harms noted that we would certainly be a strong proponent for this bill if it recognized all licensed health care providers, including physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

With COVID-19, physical therapists have been utilizing telemedicine significantly this past year. Telemedicine does not change our standards of professional care, it is merely a modality to execute treatments including fall risk assessments, environmental physical safety in the home, injury management and prevention, as well as exercise prescription in the frail or subacute injury populations. Working in an outpatient clinic during COVID-19 with older community dwelling adults taught us that telehealth was an essential treatment modality. Under COVID-19 quarantine procedures, many patients could not come to in-person visits. Our unique training includes rehabilitation of cardiopulmonary deficits of compromised individuals throughout disease processes or age spectrum. We can follow those post COVID-19 or post hospital admission patients via telehealth, especially for our patients in rural Kansas. We also use telehealth to appropriately identify the best agencies to coordinate care whether home health, social services and mental health support.

APTA Kansas believes the best health care legislation/policies are adopted based on qualified providers delivering evidence-based care that is safe and cost effective. We understand our role in population and community health, not to mention the important role we play as experts in the treatment of musculoskeletal conditions. Our profession is uniquely qualified to help our patients with their musculoskeletal issues and this can be done via telemedicine, as well as in-person. We play a vital role in ensuring the safety and proper treatment of our patients in whatever modality is necessary, based on our patients' needs and are ready and equipped to do so. Thank you for your time today.