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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY
ASSOCIATION (APTA) IN 2021

Introduced By: Senator Hanna M. Gallo

Date Introduced: May 18, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Reconstruction aides, strong women who were the predecessors to current
2 physical therapists, were integral to the recovery of many World War I soldiers and demonstrated
3 their value as medical professionals and war heroes, showing that those who would eventually be
4 known as physical therapists had a major role to play in the future of America's health; and

5 WHEREAS, Mary McMillan, a reconstruction aide, was elected in 1921 as the first
6 president of the American Women's Physical Therapeutic Association; and

7 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island chapter was founded in 1931 and continues today,
8 representing 500 physical therapists, assistants and students; and

9 WHEREAS, The University of Rhode Island graduated its first class of physical
10 therapists in 1991, and as of 2007, all graduating physical therapists are educated at the clinical
11 doctoral level. A total of 686 physical therapists have graduated from this program, with 27 more
12 graduating in May of 2021; and

13 WHEREAS, The Community College of Rhode Island graduated its first class of
14 physical therapy assistants in 1993, and to date 488 students have graduated from this program;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The New England Institute of Technology graduated its first class of
17 physical therapy assistants in 2010, and to date 401 students have graduated from this program;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The vision of the physical therapy profession is: transforming society by

1 optimizing movement to improve the human experience; and

2 WHEREAS, Given that the United States Department of Health & Human Services
3 indicates that more than 80 percent of adults and adolescents do not get enough physical activity
4 and that regular activity is one of the most important ways to improve health, physical therapists
5 and physical therapist assistants are critical to health services teams as movement experts who
6 improve quality of life by addressing pain or chronic conditions that limit participation in
7 activities, and by reducing the risk for chronic diseases, enhancing fitness, and preventing injuries
8 through hands-on care, patient education, and prescribed movement based on rigorous research;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants treat people where they
11 are, providing care to people in many settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient
12 clinics, homes, schools, sports teams and fitness facilities, the United States Armed Services,
13 veterans facilities, work settings, and nursing homes; and

14 WHEREAS, Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants treat individuals across
15 their lifespan and have clinical expertise in 18 specialty areas: Acute Care, Aquatics,
16 Cardiovascular and Pulmonary, Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management, Education,
17 Federal, Geriatrics, Hand and Upper Extremity, Health Policy and Administration, Home Health,
18 Neurology, Oncology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Pelvic Health, Private Practice, Research, and
19 Sports; and

20 WHEREAS, Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants have faced the challenge
21 of the COVID-19 pandemic head on, playing an essential role in treating people who are
22 recovering from the effects of the novel coronavirus, for as long as it takes to improve and restore
23 function; and

24 WHEREAS, The American Physical Therapy Association is the leading professional
25 membership organization for the physical therapy profession, with the mission of building a
26 community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society;
27 now, therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes the 100th
29 Anniversary of the American Physical Therapy Association in 2021; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes the American Physical Therapy
31 Association for its dedication to improving the health of society over the past 100 years, and also
32 recognizes that the APTA and its members are essential partners to meeting the future health and
33 wellness needs of our country; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to

- 1 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Chapter of the American
- 2 Physical Therapy Association.

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