



Chairman Joseph Solomon, Jr  
House Committee on Corporations

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Committee on Corporations,

My name is Greg Doucette and I am a Physical Therapist and Orthopedic Clinical Specialist in Warwick Rhode Island. I am also a Board Member of the Rhode Island chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association and the Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee for that same group. I thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB 7213, entrance in the Physical Therapy Compact (PTC).

The PTC is an initiative of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy to improve access to physical therapy care. Per the Compact statutory language, a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant working under a Compact Privilege must abide by the practice laws and rules of the remote state when practicing there. There is no impact or change in the scope of practice of PTs and PTAs in Rhode Island when becoming a member of the Compact. The primary goal is to increase access to expert care for patients requiring rehabilitation.

The PTC has many potential benefits for Rhode Island:

- Improves access to physical therapy
- Preserves state-based licensure system
- Improves communication between states
- Ensures full participation in license and disciplinary data system
- Requires criminal background checks to ensure safety
- Requires continuing competence for all that practice under the PTC
- Improves portability for military spouses

Currently, 36 states have successfully enacted Compact Legislation, including neighbors Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont in 2023. I implore you to help make Rhode Island the 37<sup>th</sup>. The PTC is a simple, budget neutral program that will help ensure that our most vulnerable populations will have access to the best expert care available. If you have any questions regarding the Physical Therapy Compact or any other Physical Therapy initiatives, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you again for the opportunity to present to your committee and for your consideration of HB 7213.

Regards

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