

To: Mr. Joseph Kaufman

February 23, 1967

From: Legislative Committee, A.P.T.A. of Md.

By the proposed amendments the A.P.T.A. of Md. seeks to provide an updated, concise definition of physical therapy and to provide a definition of the practice of physical therapy stated in simple language and arranged in an orderly manner which makes it readily and clearly understandable.

1. The present definition of physical therapy is a long, rambling statement that includes some aspects of the definition of physical therapy and some of a definition of the practice of physical therapy. The proposed amendments make a distinction between these two definitions, pointing out the difference between what physical therapy is, and what a physical therapist does.
2. Because a physical therapist is defined in the law as one who practices physical therapy, it is deemed necessary to state what constitutes the practice of physical therapy. To provide this type of definition also appears to be consistent with the format of other Health Practice Acts.
3. In defining physical therapy as a para-medical specialty, the proposed amendments designate the relationship of the physical therapy profession to the medical profession, thus reinforcing Sect. 609, part 6 which prohibits the practice of physical therapy "other than under the written or verbal order of a physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery."
4. The proposed amendments are compatible with the present-day objectives of the physical therapy educational program at the University of Maryland.

Signed,

*Florence P. Kendall*

Florence P. Kendall, Chairman