

The Maryland State Physical Therapy Society  
3900 North Charles Street  
Baltimore 18, Maryland

March 2, 1965

Att. Mr. Clemens Gaines, Secretary  
State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
301 West Preston Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Gaines:

As you know, it has been agreed that three directors of the APTA and three from The Maryland State Physical Therapy Society shall meet with the Board of Examiners within a short time to once again discuss legislation pertaining to our profession. We therefore, request that prior to any discussions or subjects, when the meeting is called to order by your chairman, that this letter and the enclosed material be read immediately. Our members and directors feel that making our position clear at the beginning much time and aggravation shall be avoided; and the meeting should conclude in a pleasant manner with goodwill and satisfaction to all.

Very truly yours,

(sgd) Joseph M. Rosskopf (am)

Joseph M. Rosskopf, Ph.T.D.  
Secretary

Latrobe Building  
2 East Read Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

March 2, 1965

Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

As requested in our attached letter, kindly read prior to any other discussion at this meeting.

The Board of Directors and Members of the Maryland State Physical Therapy Society Inc. met Friday, February 18 at a specially called meeting for the purpose of discussing and acting by vote on the contents of a "Bill" proposed by the APTA for the amendment of the Physical Therapy Practice Acts in this state. The following comments and decisions were made.

First, let us remind all present tonight that the APTA and not the State Society were the first to "Intruduce House Bill 69 back in 1947". After several meetings of both groups the Bill was ironed out to the satisfaction of all and in total accord for the passage of same. However, when this Bill reached the Governor's Office for his signature a strong effort was made by the APTA Chapter to have this Bill vetoed by Governor Lane. Several times from March until May 6th, 1947, when the Governor signed the Bill into Law the following statement was used by APTA members, we quote "that the APTA Headquarters in Chicago and New York did not want this Bill therefore the Governor should by all means veto same" end of quote. On the 6th of May, just prior to signing the Bill, Governor Lane stated and we quote, "I am not interested in what they do or want in Chicago or New York this is our State of Maryland and there are others in this state than the members of this chapter," end of quote.

Since the signing of the Bill, eighteen years have passed and repeatedly attempts have been made by or through the APTA to change in various ways the contents of our law and always somewhere along the line the same old dry is put up, this is what is wanted at our Headquarters in New York, etc... At this point we want to remind all present that this is not New York, this is Maryland, we are licensed here under the laws of Maryland and not New York, Chicago, Penn. or elsewhere.

We as an organization applied for and received our "Charter" 24 years ago, this charter has never been revoked or dropped by us, yet the APTA operating only as a "Chapter" and through its directors have always tried to control, monopolize and dictate through legislation and otherwise what the therapists and the "State Board of Examiners" MUST do.

The Members and Directors of the State Society are opposed to any change of the Board of Examiners from all Physicians to Physicians and Therapists as now desired by the APTA both in and out of this State. We feel that the Board has put forth all efforts to conduct themselves in the capacity of their appointment and that they have acted in good faith although there have been times when we have disagreed with each other. We feel that they have been sincere and have met whenever they felt it was necessary to do so, for the good of the therapists. We feel that a change in the Board would only add confusion and that an attempt would be made to usurp the profession for "that chosen few the APTA", due to their many attempts in the past years.

Regarding the issuing of licenses to therapists from "Foreign Countries" we feel that the Board is quite capable of deciding the two main issues pertaining to them. One, are they qualified to take the same State Board Examination as the American Therapist is required to take. Two, and that the Board will give them the same examination at the proper time and designated place under proper supervision.

There is a dire shortage of therapists in this country, this need must be met, not by "therapy aides" or assistants but by qualified therapists who have passed the required examination in this State. We have the foreign physician, surgeon, dentist, etc. come into our country with satisfactory qualifications and are permitted to take the required examination and if they pass they are licensed to practice their profession here in this State. Why not the foreign Therapist?

In regards to "so called" advertising and the amendment requested that we change our Business cards, signs, etc. this seems silly and ridiculous to us, we are sure that all therapists are familiar with the requirements of treating patients as required by our law "that patients must be diagnosed and referred by a fully licensed physician".

It would appear that although there is a dire shortage of therapists that this faction of the APTA places our profession on a competitive basis and that they cannot withstand the competition; if this be the case we suggest that they look at their own shortcomings or settle down to building a substantial practice within the broad limits of our law in this State.

Be it Resolved:

That if there are continued attempts to alter our law every legislation session to suit this "chosen few" and that we will be forced each session to leave our offices and practice we will take strong measures that we are not desirous of taking. We have stated that we are satisfied with the present Board of Examiners, we want no change in the Board or in our existing law now or in the future. However, should this continue year after year we shall reluctantly be forced to "Introduce Legislation" at an early session requesting a "COMPOSIT BOARD" - a Board consisting of 1-Chiropractor, 1-Osteopath, 1-Physician, 1-Chiropodist and 1-Physical Therapist. A request has been made year after year for us to join in with other groups for this purpose, although we know it can be obtained through legislation with little effort because all of the foregoing practitioners practice physical therapy in conjunction with their own methods. We wish to stress that we do not want this type of Board now or in the future but if forced by this continuous effort of the APTA and its local chapter we will go through with this.

We would sincerely suggest that each therapist regardless of organization membership, consider these facts as presented and to settle down to the practice of our profession to the best of our ability and with less malice toward his fellow practitioner as we have no further intentions of being the segregated group nor do we intend to close our offices repeatedly because they desire almost continuous changes in a good law governed by a competent Board of Examiners who have served us well for many years.

By Board of Directors of  
Maryland State Physical Therapy Society Inc.  
Approved by Members