



CLEMENS W. GAINES  
SECRETARY

State of Maryland

## Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

2411 N. CHARLES STREET, BALTIMORE - 18

WETHERBEE FORT, M. D.  
H. ALVAN JONES, M. D.  
ROBERT H. RILEY, M. D., DR. P. H.  
GEORGE H. YEAGER, M. D.  
W. RICHARD FERGUSON, M.D.  
CHAIRMAN

February 26, 1951

Mrs. Florence P. Kendall  
The Children's Hospital School  
Greenspring Ave. and 41st Street  
Baltimore, 11, Md.

Dear Mrs. Kendall:

In accordance with our conversation today you will find attached the proposed bill to spell out the limitation that Physical Therapists may not use the title "Doctor" or abbreviation for that title.

It is in view of your points that this prohibition already has legal foundation in the Medical Practices Act and that persons who are licensed by examination are of such type that as a matter of ethics they will not be offenders, that I should appreciate your advising me of the position of the Maryland State Registry of Physical Therapists as to their taking the initiative in having this bill introduced and followed through the Legislature.

Your cooperation as always is very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

CLEMENS W. GAINES  
Secretary, Board of  
Physical Therapy Examiners

CWG:F

*Ms. Gowers*

# Senate of Maryland

NO. 11

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THE PRESIDENT—(Legislative Council)—Rules

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By the SENATE, February 1, 1950.

Introduced, read the first time and referred to the Committee on Rules.

By order, C. ANDREW SHAAB, Secretary.

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## A BILL

ENTITLED

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 539 of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Health", sub-title "Physical Therapy", prohibiting the use of the term or letters "Doctor" or "Dr." by any person licensed as a Physical Therapist in Maryland.

1 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Mary-*  
2 *land, That Section 539 of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of*  
3 *Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Health", sub-title "Physi-*  
4 *cal Therapy", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted,*  
5 *with amendments, to read as follows:*

1 539. All persons licensed as Physical Therapists under the  
2 provisions of this sub-title, and no others, shall be known as  
3 Physical Therapists and shall be entitled to use the abbrevia-  
4 tion "P. T." or any other words, letters or symbols which  
5 indicate that the person using the same is a licensed Physical  
6 Therapist and authorized to practice as such in this State.  
7 *No person licensed under this sub-title shall use or be en-*  
8 *titled to use or append to his or her name the term or letters*  
9 *"Doctor" or "Dr." Any person so using the term or letters*  
10 *"Doctor" or "Dr." shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon*  
11 *conviction thereof shall be subject to a penalty of not more*  
12 *than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for the first offense; for*  
13 *the second or any subsequent conviction, he shall be subject*  
14 *to a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00),*  
15 *and for such second or subsequent conviction, the Board shall*  
16 *revoke his license as a Physical Therapist. The State Board*  
17 *of Physical Therapy Examiners shall send to the State Board*  
18 *of Health the name and address of each person licensed as*  
19 *a Physical Therapist, and the name and address of each per-*  
20 *son for whom a license is revoked.*

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take*  
2 *effect June 1, 1950.*

March 6, 1961

Mr. Clemens Gaines, Secretary  
Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
2411 North Charles Street  
Baltimore 18, Maryland

Dear Mr. Gaines:

Before bringing your letter of February 26th to the attention of the Registry or the Maryland Chapter of the A.P.T.A., Mr. Kendall and I would like to submit our personal opinion to the Board. Mr. Kendall has taken the matter up briefly with Dr. Ferguson, but we are writing this letter in answer to your inquiry.

We do not believe we could personally sponsor the bill in its present form, and would like to state why. If the board thinks the amendment is a wise and necessary move we will be glad to cooperate to the fullest extent, however.

As stated in the telephone conversation, we have reason to believe the average lay person would not feel this amendment necessary, or even advisable. We could not anticipate passage of the bill without adequate support from the majority of legislators, and we do not believe their sentiments would be in favor of it.

As stated too, in our telephone conversation, we are inclined to feel that the problem will eventually resolve itself because the restrictions under the law permit only well trained persons to qualify for the examination. The schools from which these students graduate instill the physical therapists with the ethical requirements of abstaining from the use of the title " Doctor ".

It appears too, that prohibition of the use of the title " Dr." by physical therapists should be sponsored primarily by the Medical Faculty. If the Faculty expressed a desire to have such a bill enacted, you may be sure the physical therapists would cooperate. However, there would need to be a qualification of the present proposed amendment for reasons explained in the following paragraph.

In the not too distant future there will be physical therapists who have PH.D. degrees. One of our members is now taking her graduate work at the University of Maryland for a PH.D. in Anatomy. There will no doubt be others in the country within the next few years.

Page 2

Mr. Clemens Gaines

March 6, 1951

At least one physical therapist that we know of has been given an honorary doctors degree. It should not be illegal for those with a degree to be addressed as Doctor if the title has been earned or given as an honorary title.

There arises one more serious consideration. If the Board has licensed a chiropractor as a physical therapist, are they in a position to request that he be prosecuted if he uses the title of Doctor and also states he is a physical therapists? Objections to this amendment would surely come from the chiropractors as well as the physical therapists who choose to use the title "Dr".

We would necessarily have to present all sides of the problem if we brought this matter to the attention of the Registry and the A.P.T.A. We doubt very much whether the group would like to sponsor the present bill, but if you wish we will take the matter up at the next meeting which is scheduled for March 14. Will you kindly advise us what is the pleasure of the Board in this matter.

Sincerely,

Florence Kendall

FK:w

1951



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CLEMENS W. GAINES  
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2411 N. CHARLES STREET, BALTIMORE - 18

April 9, 1951

Mrs. Florence Kendall  
The Children's Hospital School  
Greenspring Ave. and 41st Street  
Baltimore, 11, Md.

Dear Mrs. Kendall:

As you have probably heard from Dr. Ferguson, the information contained in your letter of March 6th was reviewed by the Board at its meeting on March 22, and based upon this information and the conversations which it prompted, the Board took the position that it will make no further efforts to have legislation enacted which would restrict the use of the title "Doctor" by its licensees, but that in lieu of such action it would attempt to clarify with the Attorney General's office its ability to prosecute licensees when the title "Doctor" is being misused, under the Medical Practices Act.

Your fine cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

*Clemens W. Gaines*  
CLEMENS W. GAINES  
Secretary

CWG:F