

RE: Legis-NATIONAL

719 N. Broadway
Baltimore, Md.
October 20, 1962

Senator Robert R. Reynolds
Chairman of the Committee
on Military Affairs
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Reynolds:

We are taking the liberty of writing to you on behalf of the Maryland Chapter of The American Physiotherapy Association.

It is our earnest desire to assist our Country in every possible way; to do this we feel that it is necessary to have our position clearly defined regarding Military Status.

We are and integral part of the Medical Branch of the Armed Forces both here and abroad and as such we feel that our status should be not that of a Civilian employee but that of a commissioned officer in the Medical Corps.

The importance of the Physiotherapist can be verified at the Surgeon General's Office, the Crippled Children's Bureau, and at the Department of Labor.

The American Physiotherapy Association was organized by the Physiotherapy Aides of the first World War. Since that time all members of the Association have been graduates of schools approved by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association. This means that the Physiotherapist has had a minimum of four and in most cases five years of college level training.

The approved Schools of Physiotherapy are cooperating with the Government in the expansion program of the Army and Navy. These schools are capable of training more Physiotherapists but at the present time potential

students are lured by the prospect of a commission in the WAVES and the WAAC.

Physiotherapists who now volunteer for foreign duty leave this country without the protection of war risk insurance afforded the nurses and their personal insurance is automatically cancelled, yet they are expected to care for the wounded side by side with the nurses.

To adequately staff the Camps would it not be to the Army's advantage to give the Physiotherapist a Military rating so that they could be transferred to Posts where they are needed?

We would appreciate your consideration of these facts in connection with the legislation which is now pending to give Physiotherapists a Military status in the Army and Navy.

Respectfully yours,

Edith L. Nyman, Pres.
Maryland Chapter
American Physiotherapy
Association

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