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THE JAMES LAWRENCE KERNAN HOSPITAL
WINDSOR MILL ROAD & FOREST PARK AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21207

RECEIVED

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March 13, 1972

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Honorable C.A. Porter Hopkins
Shaw House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Porter:

I am very much concerned about the Senate Bill Number 361. This bill proposes to allow unqualified individuals to perform duties which are delegated by licensed physicians regardless of whether or not those delegated duties require a license under the provisions of an existing State law. Quite obviously this would affect a number of para-medical specialities, including Physical Therapy.

As related to Physical Therapy, Senate Bill Number 361 would supersede the Physical Therapy Practice Act and would allow persons not licensed, with questionable educational background, and possibly no experience in the field, to render Physical Therapy treatments if so ordered by a licensed physician. Without licensure, quality control methods aimed at protecting the public are lost. The qualifications of Physical Therapy providers would not be consistent and Maryland citizens would be subjected to the abuses which occurred prior to 1947.

Although this may not be the intent of the proposed bill, in its present form it endangers the very protective concepts of health legislation which the Maryland Legislature has promoted and developed throughout the years. I sincerely hope that the Committee on Economic Affairs will give serious consideration to either amending the proposed bill or recommending that it not be passed. I am specifically asking that you lend your support to my request in this regard when this bill appears for its reading. The Maryland Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association and I wish to thank you for your interest on our behalf.

Very sincerely yours,

Bill

William Neill, III
Chief Physical Therapist
Kernan Hospital

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