

Date?

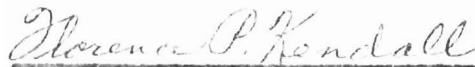
H.B. 468
(Opposed)

Existing laws regarding licensure of allied health professions would be undermined by this bill. Most of the allied health professions require referral (i.e., delegation of responsibilities and duties) by a Physician. Would there be any justification for continuing the requirement that Physical therapists, for example, be licensed if one could perform the same duties without being licensed?

A giant step forward was taken by the Federal government when they recognized and wrote into law the requirements for adequate education and training for health personnel as spelled out in the Conditions of Participation. While educational requirements do not guarantee quality care, such requirements are a step in the right direction. The practice of Medicine itself is based on the premise that health care demands that the provider be qualified through meeting high educational standards and rigorous training.

Maryland is the only State in which Physical therapy has attained the position of being at the policy-making level in the State Health Department. There are members of the profession engaged in surveying the Physical therapy services in Nursing Homes. There is a great concern among some of us that we are in danger of running head on into a situation where denial of payments may come as a result of lowering the standards here in Maryland which we believe will result if this bill is signed.

We earnestly request that you veto H.B.468



Mrs. Henry O. Kendall
Legislative representative