



Maryland

Chapter

AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

March 13, 1966

Hon. Roy Staten, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Staten:

Realizing that your committee has many major bills under consideration, this letter regarding H.B. 361 will be brief and to the point. Had time permitted, many statements made by the opponents (the Society) would have been corrected at the time of the Hearing on March 9; some, however, were not even worthy of rebuttal. To help clarify some of the issues, we wish to make the following points:

1. The present bill is already a compromise with the Society. The A.P.T.A. of Md., by virtue of its much larger membership (229 members), and its requirements regarding educational qualifications, might logically be considered the official organization to submit a list of names of qualified persons to the Governor. However, we have actually compromised with the Society by relinquishing this right, and placing the responsibility in the hands of another organization, the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. (See attached sheet regarding size of, and requirements for membership in the organizations.)
2. The Society members were not in accord among themselves about having physical therapists on the Board. One stated that there was no need for any; another said he would not mind if all five were physical therapists; and they have introduced S.B. 312 requesting four physical therapists plus five newly appointed medical doctors. Why, if they have complete confidence in the present Board, as they stated, have they requested that the Board be completely reconstituted as provided in S.P. 312? It appears there is an effort to cloud the issue. It is also difficult to understand why they should feel that their rights might be jeopardized by the addition of two physical therapists to the Board. Two physical therapists could not alter, nor could they out-vote, the present Board.
3. At the Hearing, reference was made by a Society member to the fact that, at one time, there had been two physical therapists on the Board and that the Board had not operated successfully. What he failed to point out was that it was because of the Society member that the Legislature found it necessary to reconstitute the Board. (See attached copy of the article from the Sun Paper.)
4. To avoid a factional fight, to eliminate the element of self-interest of either group, to give equal consideration to all licensed physical therapists in the State, whether affiliated with an organization or not, to insure the selection of qualified persons on the Board, and in the interest of harmony on the Board, we ask that H.B. 361 not be amended, and that the names of physical therapists be submitted by the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty to the Governor as is now the procedure for naming the medical doctors.

Ernest A. Burch, Jr.

c: Members, Ways & Means Com.

Ernest A. Burch, Jr.
Chairman, Legislative Committee