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*For legislative files
of Maryland State Registry*

May 15, 1947

Governor Preston Lane
Governor's Mansion
Annapolis, Maryland

Your Excellency:

Re: H.B.# 69 - Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

In reference to your telephone conversation of yesterday with
Mr. Hall Hammond, we are submitting the following information:

Enclosed is a list of names for your consideration for appointment
to the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. This list consists of three
Medical Doctors who are members of the Medical & Surgical Faculty of
Maryland, and two Physical Therapists who are members of the Maryland State
Registry of Physical Therapists.

The Maryland State Registry of Physical Therapists drew up and
sponsored H.B.# 69, and we feel that it is imperative that the Medical
Doctors constitute a majority on the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.
Physical therapy includes the use of many types of mechanical and physical
aids for the treatment of human injuries and disabilities. In view of
this fact, and the fact that H.B.#69 provides that licensed Physical
Therapists treat only patients referred by licensed Doctors of Medicine,
it is our belief that the public health and welfare will be adequately
protected only so long as Physical Therapy remains under the jurisdiction
of the Medical Profession.

The State of Connecticut, which is the only state that has a
comparable law regarding regulation of Physical Therapy, has a Board of
Physical Therapy Examiners composed entirely of Medical Doctors. If, in
your opinion, the ~~Maryland~~ Board of Examiners should consist entirely of
Medical Doctors, we shall be glad to submit additional names.

In regard to your request for information about the *Maryland*
State Registry of Physical Therapists, we submit the following:

The Maryland State Registry of Physical Therapists was started
as a state organization through the efforts of the Maryland Chapter of the
American Physiotherapy Association, which is a national organization,
recognized and approved by the American Medical Association.

The Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American
Medical Association lists the approved schools for training Physical
Therapists, and eligibility for membership in either of the two National
Physical Therapy organizations, is based on graduation from one of these
approved schools.

A majority of the members of the Maryland State Registry of Physical Therapists are members of either or both of the National organizations approved by the American Medical Association; namely, the American Physiotherapy Association, and the American Registry of Physical Therapy Technicians.

None of the American Medical Association approved schools for training Physical Therapists confer the title of Dr. (Doctor) on their graduates and use of such title by such graduates is considered unethical. In Maryland it appears that use of the title Dr. by Physical Therapists is in violation of the MEDICAL PRACTICE ACT. Hence, our members do not attach this title to their name.

It shall be pleased to submit any further information which you may desire.

~~Respectfully submitted,~~

Helen C. Coburn, Secretary
Maryland State Registry of Physical Therapists
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