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FACT SHEET

Senate Bill 1054 – Physical Therapist Compact

BILL SUMMARY

SB 1054 would enter California into the Physical Therapist Compact (PT Compact), an interstate licensure agreement that provides licensing reciprocity for Physical Therapists (PTs) and Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs). As a member of the PT Compact, PTs and PTAs in other compact states (currently there are 26) would be eligible to practice physical therapy in California, and California's PTs and PTAs would likewise be eligible to practice in those states.

BACKGROUND

Medical care providers are constantly adapting to a rapidly changing and increasingly interconnected national healthcare system. California's current framework for physical therapist licensure is based on an antiquated model in which physical therapists go to school, become licensed, and practice in the same location throughout their entire career. This system has cut California off from the rest of the nation and become an impediment to delivering the highest quality of care to California patients.

REASONS FOR LEGISLATION

Physical therapy is a highly mobile profession, with PTs and PTAs traveling to patients more than in almost any other medical profession. Joining the PT Compact would dramatically increase the mobility of California's Physical Therapy community and increase opportunities for California licensees.

SB 1054 would reduce costs for hospitals and interstate healthcare systems by easing the administrative and financial barriers associated with

multi-state practice. Joining the PT Compact would broaden the pool of Physical Therapy professionals eligible to work in California and increase access to specialized Physical Therapy professionals licensed in other states.

SB 1054 would improve educational opportunities in the Physical Therapy field as virtual education and visiting instructors could be utilized as part of PT curriculum.

SB 1054 would also benefit military spouses and other transitory professionals that could practice physical therapy immediately rather than waiting months to gain a full California PT license.

SB 1054 would give California a seat at the table in determining the future of the PT Compact. The Federal Trade Commission and Department of Commerce have made it clear that licensing reciprocity is the way of the future. SB 1054 would allow California to shape how the compact operates moving forward.

SUPPORT

Pending

CONTACT

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