

April 20, 2020

The Honorable John Moorlach
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2048
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: SB 1054 (Moorlach) Physical Therapy Compact: Support

Dear Senator Moorlach:

The California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF) wishes to express our support for your bill, SB 1054 which would enter the state of California into the Physical Therapist Compact (PT Compact), which provides reciprocal licensing for Physical Therapists (PTs) and Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs), allowing PTs and PTAs from other states to practice in California.

CAHF represents over 1,250 long term care facilities including skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled and Pediatric Subacute Facilities. Our skilled nursing facilities provide a variety of services to our state's most vulnerable populations, including short and long-term physical rehabilitation. Physical therapy is a critical piece of this rehabilitation for our patients. As our state's population ages, we will continue to see a rise in demand for these services. Our response should be coordinated.

California skilled nursing facilities provide some of the best care in the country. SNFs are evaluated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) based on 18 quality measures, including a measure that tracks a resident's improved mobility and ability to move around on their own. With SB 1054, California will have an opportunity to join with 26 other PT Compact member states and work with them to discover new avenues to further improve quality of care. California will be able to play a leading role within the PT Compact going forward, sharing its successes to help other states improve, and learning in areas where we can make improvements. Additionally, by increasing the pool of physical therapists available to practice in California, patients throughout the health care continuum will have increased access to physical therapy services and will have more opportunities to receive specialized care.

Thank you for introducing this important bill. We look forward to working with you and your staff. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding CAHF's position, feel free to reach out to me at ablumberg@cahf.org or (916) 215-9610.

Sincerely,

Amy Blumberg
Director of Legislative Affairs
California Association of Health Facilities