

May, 2018

Committee Name: **State Government Affairs**

Committee Chair: Cynthia Driskell, PT

Thanks to 2018 Committee members for their participation: John Heick (Board Liaison), Kay Wing, Phil Tygiel, Cory Manton, Helene Fearon, Jim Roush, Al D'Appolonio, Karen Donahue, Karl Burris, Blair Packard, Peg Hiller, Jennifer Zoucha, James Tompkins,, Andy Moriarty, Heidi Jannega, Kadeen Mansor , Beth Horn, Laura Markey .

Thanks to our Legislative lobbyist, DORN POLICY GROUP with Tom Dorn, Carly Daniels, Eric Emmert, and Cole Libera .

2018 Legislative Session The Arizona legislative session is continuing with budget consideration focused on public education. AzPTA introduced legislation, HB 2088, to include physical therapists in concussion management and return to play decisions, amending AIA statutes that set policy for public school setting. There continues to be opposition from the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the AIA, who want to require physician supervision. A pilot program is proposed, with reporting to the Legislature via the Dept of Education for the next 2 years. AzPTA is supporting HB 2197 Workforce Data, a bill would require some licensing boards to collect designated workforce data to aid the state in healthcare workforce planning. Schools and universities could also use this information for program planning. SB 1034 Sunrise Process will change the process to review scope of practice issues and new groups seeking licensure in AZ. Use of the regulatory designation of DPT for all licensed physical therapists was discussed at stakeholder meetings, but was not introduced at this session

Physical Therapy Day at the Capitol AzPTA members and students attended PT Day at the Capitol on March 1, hosting state legislators for a boxed lunch and meeting with individual legislators. We were recognized at the House Health Committee and on the floor of the House by Rep. Heather Carter. AzPTA offered support for the Governor's focus on opioid addiction issues and highlighted physical therapy's role in preventing and treating pain.

Board of Physical Therapy The Board of Physical Therapy has relocated to 1740 W. Adams St, Phoenix, along with a number of other licensing boards. The Governor continues to work to streamline and downsize state regulatory agencies. Three vacancies currently exist on the Board of PT – 2 professional members, and 1 public member. Members interested in serving on the Board may contact Charles Brown, Executive Director at 602-274-0236.

APTA State Policy and Payment Forum for 2018 will be held in Kansas City, MO Sept 15-16. This annual meeting will highlight state legislative trends in physical therapy and health care. We anticipate discussion of scope of practice issues including referrals for imaging by physical therapists, update on interstate licensure compact, and Medicare payment policy review.

