



**Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee  
House Bill 679 – Proponent**

On behalf of the Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA), the state professional association representing physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and physical therapy students in Ohio, we would like to provide supportive comment on House Bill 679 to provide for coverage of telehealth services.

We would like to commend the State of Ohio for their swift action to expand access to telehealth at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We know this helped many Ohioans continue their care in the midst of a crisis. We also support efforts to make these changes permanent. Physical therapists play an integral role in providing care to patients across the lifespan. Physical therapy plays a critical role in providing services that allow Ohioans to build strength and capacity to work to live a healthier life. PTs are important for meaningful and full injury recovery. We assist in getting our patients back to work and back to healthy activities.

Allowing PT practitioners to use telehealth services when appropriate has eliminated some significant barriers that many patients face who utilize our services on a regular basis. Transportation is one common obstacle patients face to get their needed treatment. Telehealth opens up a path to PT treatment in a new way. Allowing PTs to be telehealth providers will increase access to our services to those living in rural and underserved areas.

Overall, telehealth may be used by physical therapy patients to overcome barriers to access services caused by distance, impaired mobility, and unavailability of specialists and/or subspecialists. We are pleased that the sponsors and members of the legislature see the benefit physical therapists can provide to the telehealth population and we are happy to support this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria L. Gresh".

Victoria L. Gresh, CAE  
Executive Director