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**Letter in support of SB-5  
Ohio House Health Committee  
Chair Scott Lipps**

**March 4, 2021**

**RE: Ohio SB-5 (Physical Therapy Compact)**

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) is a membership organization comprised of the 53 jurisdictional licensing boards regulating physical therapy in the United States. The Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board, is a member of FSBPT. FSBPT's mission is to protect the public by providing service and leadership that promotes safe and competent physical therapy practice. All 53 jurisdictional licensing boards (50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands) require licensure for physical therapists and either licensure or certification for physical therapist assistants.

The PT Compact (PTC or Compact) is an initiative of FSBPT to improve access to physical therapy care. Per the Compact statutory language, a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant working under a Compact Privilege must abide by the practice laws and rules of the remote state when practicing there. There is no impact or change in the scope of practice of PTs and PTAs in Ohio when becoming a member of the Compact.

The PTC has many benefits for Ohio:

- Improves access to physical therapy providers
- Preserves state-based licensure system
- Improves communication between states
  - Ensures full participation in license and disciplinary data system
  - All adverse actions and disciplinary actions will be reported regularly and shared with member states
  - Sharing of investigatory information
- Requires criminal background checks
- Facilitates alternate delivery methods such as telehealth
  - Simplifies/speeds up the current process
  - Addresses portability & barriers to access
  - Ensures the understanding that practice of physical therapy occurs in the state where the patient/client is located at the time
- Requires continuing competence for all that practice under the PTC
- Improves portability for military spouses

As home to Wright-Patterson AFB, the 5th largest employer in Ohio, the benefits of the Compact for military families are of significance to the Ohio legislature. The military spouse may choose the state

where currently residing, state of the permanent change of station orders, or the state home of record to be the home state. The Compact helps the military spouse relocate and begin work without delay; the Compact decreases the time to gain authorization to practice even as compared to expedited licensure laws. It takes minutes to receive a Compact Privilege, the authorization to practice in a state other than the home state. Ohio may become a more attractive option to call home for a military family with a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant; the military spouse has piece of mind that with Ohio as the home state, he/she will always be able to move to a Compact state with the service member without barriers to practice.

The PTC is modeled on mutual recognition. A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant must have a license in good standing in the home state and the home state must be a member of the Compact. When a licensee wants to work in another member state (the remote state) a Compact Privilege (CP) must be obtained. The CP is the authorization to practice in the remote state and not a license. To determine eligibility for a CP, there are a few criteria that the licensee must meet: 1) Home state is in the compact 2) Hold a current license in home state 3) No current encumbrances against any license (compact or non-compact) and 4) No disciplinary action for the past 2 years. If all criteria is met, the individual receives the Compact Privilege.

The Compact administration and governance is handled by the Compact Commission. The Compact Commission is a joint public agency made up of representatives from each member state, independent of any professional association or the FSBPT. As a governmental entity, the Commission has one delegate from each member jurisdiction who is a current Board member or administrator. The Compact Commission staff verifies eligibility for a Compact Privilege per the statute and rules requirements and issues the Compact Privilege with a unique Compact Privilege number. This ensures no additional work to issue Compact Privileges for the licensing board staff as a consequence of joining the Compact.

We anticipate minimal additional costs to participate in the Compact. Although statute allows it, there is no cost for Ohio to be a member of the Compact. An annual assessment would need to be approved by a majority of the Compact Commission. Each state's Delegate is expected to attend the annual in-person Commission meeting. Ohio may offset any potential loss of revenue by charging an appropriate fee for the CP. There will also be a potential increase in the number of Ohio residents who currently do not have an Ohio license, but choose to become licensed in Ohio to be eligible for a CP in remote states.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB-5 and Ohio's membership in the Physical Therapy Compact.

Respectfully Submitted,



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President

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy