

Connecticut Physical Therapy Association

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Testimony submitted by
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Chair, Government Affairs Committee
Connecticut Physical Therapy Association

House Bill No. 5388, An Act Concerning Coverage Under the Katie Beckett Waiver Program for Services Provided by a Physical Therapist Intern

February 22, 2007
Connecticut General Assembly
Human Services Committee

Senator Harris, Representative Villano and members of the Human Services Committee I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association. CPTA supports the intent of House Bill 5388, An Act Concerning Coverage Under the Katie Beckett Waiver Program for Services Provided by a Physical Therapist Intern.

CPTA is always supportive of providing the people of Connecticut with greater access to physical therapy care. We are especially supportive of any program that provides physical therapy services to the underserved populations.

We have two concerns about the current language. First, with respect to the phrase "physical therapy intern" there are no internships in physical therapy. We only have "physical therapy students" and their clinical educational experiences are affiliations. When the physical therapy student is undergoing an affiliation they are closely supervised by a licensed physical therapist whose facility is under contract with the school to provide that education. The affiliation is tightly controlled and the student is closely monitored. Therefore we would request the deletion of the word "intern" and replacement with "student."

Second, we wish to ensure the proper supervision of physical therapy students. As stated above physical therapy students receive clinical educational experience under the close and controlled supervision of a licensed physical therapist who is a clinical instructor. Having physical therapy students employed part-time outside of the formal school contracted affiliation could potential lead to a lack of appropriate supervision.

Therefore we would respectfully ask for the following amendment to correctly reflect the current language of physical therapy education and to assure the appropriate utilization and supervision of the students providing the care.

CPTA appreciates your thoughtful consideration.

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Amendment to:

Committee Bill No. 5388

LCO No. 3693

AN ACT CONCERNING COVERAGE UNDER THE KATIE BECKETT WAIVER PROGRAM FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY A PHYSICAL THERAPIST INTERN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 17b-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the state's model 2176 Medicaid waiver to allow one hundred twenty-five disabled persons to participate under the waiver. The commissioner may, within available appropriations, amend such waiver to increase the number of persons eligible to participate under the waiver to not more than two hundred disabled persons. Services provided by: a physical therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 376, a physical therapist assistant licensed pursuant to said chapter, and a physical therapist [intern] student pursuing a course of study in physical therapy and is currently engaged in a curriculum required clinical affiliation, shall be available under the waiver provided, in the case of the physical therapist [intern] student, the activities of such [intern] student are provided under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist who is the current clinical instructor.