



**Testimony of Victor Vaughan, PT, DPT, MS
Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist
Past President, CT APTA**

in support of

Raised Bill 171, An Act Concerning Doctor of Physical Therapy Designation

February 28, 2018

Chairperson Somers, Chairperson Gerratana, Chairperson Steinberg and members of the Committee, my name is Victor Vaughan and I am here to testify in support of RB 171, An Act Concerning Doctor of Physical Therapy Designation. I am a former President the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association as well as a current member of the Chapter's Public Policy Committee.

The purpose of this bill is simple. We hope to amend Connecticut's physical therapy practice act to reflect the current nature of PT education both in Connecticut and nationally. Beginning in the early 1990's, physical therapist education programs began the progression of entry level educational programs from Masters' level programs of study to the Doctorate of Physical Therapy. This transition has now been completed. Adding the DPT as a designator for those who have completed this educational program will comply with our national standard, as described by the American Physical Therapy Association, and will most accurately represent the current educational and license qualifications to the public.

Currently, the DPT is the national standard for entry level education required by CAPTE, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. This is the only accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit entry-level physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs. CAPTE functions independently in all its actions, including program accreditation status decisions. Physical therapy education accreditation is a peer review mechanism designed to assure educational quality.

Requested amendment

We also would urge the Committee to make one additional change to the statute. The language relating to the term RPT or the term Registered Physical Therapist is no longer in use. These references could be deleted for the purpose of clarity.

In closing, we appreciate the Committee leadership's decision to raise this bill in a short session. We also look forward to working with you on this and other issues between now and May 9th.