Dear Representative/Senator xxxx,

Credentialing is the process by which insurance companies ensure that health care practitioners are appropriately trained and qualified to deliver care to the public, as well as ensure there are no adverse actions against them such as sanctions, malpractice, or fraud. The credentialing process can sometimes take as long as 180 days (6 months) or more, which directly limits patient access to physical therapy and impacts their care. In addition, this laborious process negatively affects business operations placing undue burden on the practice. At times, hiring decisions and start dates for physical therapists have been delayed based on obtaining credentialing from the insurer. Physical therapists have graduated from an accredited school, have passed a national board examination and have obtained a license from the Commonwealth of PA State License Board which demonstrates competence in the field of physical therapy. The added wait time for insurance credentialing limits patient access to care. For these reasons, the PPTA supports legislation to standardize the credentialing process and create reasonable time limits for insurance companies to render a decision in the credentialing process.

HB 533: Health Care Practitioner Credentialing Act was introduced by Rep. Clint Owlett to potentially alleviate this problem while maintaining high standards. This legislation would limit the permissible wait time for a response from insurance companies to 45 days, which in turn would allow residents of PA better access to physical therapists and other practitioners. This legislation would also help to standardize the credentialing application process.

I am writing to ask for your support of this legislation that will positively impact the provision of health care to your constituents.

Thank you for consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

TADMS: 5196818-2