

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
Chair
Subcommittee on Health
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 5621 - The Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act

Dear Chairman Griffith and Ranking Member DeGette:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we express our strong support for *H.R. 5621 – the Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act*. We applaud you for introducing this bipartisan legislation, which will strengthen our nation’s health care workforce and expand access to essential services for children, families, and older adults in rural and underserved communities.

H.R. 5621 would add licensed physical therapists to the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program, helping recruit and retain highly trained professionals in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

Additionally, the bill would provide greater flexibility for Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers (CHCs) in delivering physical therapist services. CHCs serve approximately 32.5 million patients but face restrictions on how these services are provided and reimbursed. H.R. 5621 addresses this limitation by allowing physical therapists to treat patients in CHCs and provides more flexibilities in how those covered benefits are billed to Medicare and Medicaid. Importantly, the bill does not mandate physical therapist services in CHCs; rather, it gives them the option to offer these services in a manner that best meets the needs of their communities—ensuring access to nonpharmacological approaches for pain management, chronic disease treatment, and recovery from injury.

The NHSC has a proven track record: approximately 80% of participants continue practicing in HPSAs one year after completing their service, and about half remain for 10 years. Yet, physical therapists are currently excluded from the program, leaving many communities without access to critical rehabilitation services.

By strengthening the health care workforce and enabling physical therapists to serve where they are needed most, H.R. 5621 will improve outcomes for patients, families, and communities nationwide. We urge swift passage of this bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Physical Therapy Association

Advion

Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Geriatrics Society

American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL)

Arthritis Foundation

Family Caregiver Alliance, National Center on Caregiving

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Alliance on Ending Health Disparities

National Association of Community Health Centers

National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies

National Rural Health Association

National Rural Health Clinics Association

State Healthcare Organizations & Facilities

Baldwin Family Health Care (Baldwin, MI)

Cascade Medical Center Health District (Cascade, ID)

Cenevia (Richmond, VA)

CHI St. Alexius Dickinson (Dickinson, ND)

Clarinda Regional Health Center (Clarinda, IA)

Garfield County Hospital District (Pomeroy, WA)

Greater Regional Health (Creston, IA)

Health Alliance of Northern California (Redding, CA)

Highland Medical Center (Monterey, VA)

Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center (New Iberia, LA)

Jacksonville Memorial Hospital (Jacksonville, IL)

Lady of the Sea Medical Clinics (Cut Off, LA)

Lake Butler Family & Pediatric Clinic (Lake Butler, FL)

Lake Butler Hospital (Lake Butler, FL)

Logan Health-Eureka (Billings, MT)

Memorial Hospital of Texas County Authority (Guymon, OK)

Osborne County Memorial Hospital (Osborne, KS)

Plumas District Hospital (Quincy, CA)

Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (Sauk City, WI)

Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital (Manistique, MI)

Speare Memorial Hospital (Plymouth, NH)

St. Croix Health (St. Croix Falls, WI)

Sunshine Community Health Center (Talkeetna, AK)

Tri-Area Community Health (Cana, VA)

Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic (Enterprise, OR)

Weiser Memorial Hospital (Weiser, ID)
Wilderness Health (Two Harbors, MN)
Winding Waters Clinic (Enterprise, OR)