

APTA Recognizes U.S. Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester With 2024 Public Service Award



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Alexandria, Va. — Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, D-Del., has been named the recipient of the American Physical Therapy Association's 2024 Public Service Award, honoring her support and dedication to advancing the physical therapy profession.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Physical Therapy Association, it is an honor to recognize Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester for her life of public service and her unwavering support of the physical therapy profession and the patients we serve,” said APTA President Roger Herr, PT, MPA. “Rep. Blunt Rochester has worked tirelessly to make quality health care accessible to all, especially those in rural and underserved areas, and ensure health care providers can serve those most in need.”

Blunt Rochester has driven and supported impactful legislative changes for the physical therapy profession in the following areas:

- Serving as the lead Democratic co-sponsor of the Optimizing Postpartum Outcomes Act (H.R. 2480), aimed at improving patient access to pelvic therapy.
- Advocating against across-the-board cuts to various providers, including physical therapists, under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and supporting legislation that added funding to the Medicare fee schedule to mitigate planned cuts.
- Co-sponsoring APTA-supported bills that focus on increasing access to health care in rural areas, expanding the health care workforce, addressing administrative burden, and telehealth initiatives. These include the APTA-supported Expanded Telehealth Access Act to make PTs and PTAs permanent authorized providers of telehealth under Medicare, the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act aimed at addressing prior authorization by MA plans, the EMPOWER Act to allow general supervision of physical therapist assistants, and the Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act.

“We extend our gratitude to Rep. Blunt Rochester for her outstanding contributions to improving patient access, reducing administrative burden, and supporting the therapy workforce and payment for services, and are honored to present her with APTA's 2024 Public Service Award. We look forward to continuing to work with her in the 119th Congress in her new position as the next senator for Delaware,” Herr concluded.

The APTA Public Service Award, established in 1991 by APTA's Board of Directors, annually recognizes public servants who have demonstrated distinctive support and leadership for the physical therapy profession.

“Congresswoman Blunt Rochester is a champion for health care equity and improving health care outcomes in Delaware and across the country. On behalf of the members of APTA Delaware, we applaud her recognition for promoting the physical therapy profession as we optimize movement to



improve the health of society,” said Joshua Smith, PT, DPT, APTA federal affairs liaison for APTA Delaware.

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The American Physical Therapy Association represents more than 100,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and physical therapy students nationwide. Visit [apta.org](https://www.apta.org) to learn more.