

# Support For Initiatives to Improve Health in Rural Communities



**HOD P07-23-12-25** [Position]

Whereas, Increasing the content of rural health in physical therapy education programs, as well as the number of physical therapist internships, fellowships, and residencies in rural health, would improve rural health;

Whereas, Including physical therapists as essential providers in rural health settings expands access to physical therapist services;

Whereas, Improving access to rural health care requires payment reform, to include the full range of services provided by physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, and addressing the higher costs of delivering health care in under-resourced communities;

Whereas, Increasing the inclusion of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in student scholarships and loan modification and forgiveness helps reduce rural workforce shortages;

Whereas, Collecting data regarding physical therapists' role and impact in rural health settings informs policy on rural health needs;

Whereas, Enhancing physical therapist scope of practice allows physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to better meet the needs of individuals in rural areas;

Whereas, Collaborating with other health care professions and interested parties to optimally integrate physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as part of rural health care teams improves rural health;

Whereas, The expanded use of technology in physical therapy improves rural health; and

Whereas, Innovative and extended care delivery models improve rural health;

Resolved, That the American Physical Therapy Association supports initiatives to improve rural health.

**Explanation of Reference Numbers [use for House policy]:**

HOD P00-00-00-00 stands for House of Delegates/month/year/page/vote in the House of Delegates minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, HOD P06-22-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2022 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

E: Binding Ethical Document | P: Position | Y: Policy

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