

Monday January 27, 2024
Senate Human Services Committee
SB 2169

Madame Chair and members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Corbin Olson, and I am testifying on behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association – North Dakota Chapter. I am in my third-year of pursuing my Doctorate in Physical Therapy at the University of Mary, set to graduate in a few short months. I have had the pleasure of completing three full-time clinical rotations, and I am very active in the leadership of our professional association, currently serving as the Chairman of the National Student Council of the American Physical Therapy Association.

I am here today to request that your committee consider Senate Bill 2169, which is a motion to adopt language requiring informed consent.

As Physical Therapists, we are trained to live in a land of ambiguity. We recognize that each patient and their specific presentation is profoundly unique, so students have been hearing since their first day of PT school that commonly in the world of physical therapy, “It Depends.” However, we recognize that there is no room for ambiguity when it comes to informed consent for treatment, especially in physical therapy treatment which often requires a therapist to be literally hands-on.

The American Physical Therapy Association offers a model Practice Act for us to consider adopting ours to resemble, and they acknowledge the importance of informed consent by including it in their wording:

The physical therapist shall communicate the overall plan of care with, and obtain informed consent from, the patient or the patient's legally authorized representative.

As highly trained healthcare professionals, physical therapists are aware that we must be obtaining informed consent prior to any treatment. However, adopting this language into our North Dakota Physical Therapy Practice Act would remove any potential ambiguity and protect North Dakotans who are seeking our services.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,



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