



## North Dakota Board of Physical Therapy

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TO: Sen. Judy Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee

The North Dakota Board of Physical Therapy (NDBPT) has been discussing physical therapists ordering imaging for several years. Our May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, minutes reflect a negative response for PT's ordering imaging or making direct referral to a radiologist for imaging studies.

However, much has changed since then. Current literature now supports the efficacy and public safety of physical therapists ordering imaging studies. Multiple states now allow this with no real problems. This practice has been available to physical therapists in the military for several years and has led to excellent studies confirming the notion that PT's are well suited to order imaging given their knowledge, skills and ability to evaluate and treat musculoskeletal issues.

In May of 2019, the NDBPT reversed its negative stance on PT's ordering imaging. The minutes read "PT and ordering imaging: The NDBPT discussed their role in promoting PT's ability to order imaging studies. The board concluded that promoting the profession was the responsibility of the professional chapter. The following statement is now the board's stance on imaging: "The NDBPT will not oppose legislative efforts by the American Physical Therapy Association-ND Chapter to enact a law enabling physical therapists to order imaging studies."

This change in language reflects the board's confidence in the educational advancement for the clinical Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) graduate as well as the post graduate programs available to non-DPT graduates in the area of ordering imaging.

The NDBPT supports a **do pass for SB 2122**. Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

/S/ Bruce Wessman  
Executive Officer  
North Dakota Board of Physical Therapy

/S/Jeanne DeKrey  
President  
North Dakota Board of Physical Therapy