

Dear [insert Representative's name],

A blueback to amend the Medical Practice Act of 1985 was written this week by Rep. Murt. This act will require all recreational therapists in Pennsylvania to be licensed (which will require all recreational therapists in Pennsylvania to be nationally certified). The certification process is already in place therefore it will not cost taxpayers extra money to license recreational therapists. This is needed to ensure the safety of the citizens in Pennsylvania. There are approximately 1,600 recreational therapists in Pennsylvania, but only half are nationally certified. This means that approximately 800 people are calling themselves recreational therapists, and are practicing as recreational therapists in the state of Pennsylvania who do not possess the basic credentials to do so. This is a major safety concern. Would you want your loved one receiving recreational therapy by someone who is not qualified to do so? I certainly would not! This bill, which is also being concurrently introduced in the Senate (SB 1053), is also supported by over 200,000 healthcare clients and professionals and over 350 health care service providers. Rep. Murt is seeking Representatives to co-sponsor the bill with him before it is officially introduced. Can we count on you to do this?"

Sincerely,

[insert your name]

After you contact your Representative, please send an email to Heather Porter to let her know whom you contacted (hporter@temple.edu) and the Representative's response. If the Representative asks for more information, let me Heather know and she will be glad to forward them additional information. Heather is the Chair of the RT Licensure Committee for PA and keeping track of everyone who was contacted. **PLEASE ask all of your friends, family, co-workers, and clients to contact their Representatives, too. Post this message on your Facebook page and make copies of it and give it out to people that you know (e.g., your baseball team, your clients).**

The RT profession is relying on YOU (yes, YOU) to do your part. If we don't get enough co-sponsors the bill won't be introduced. So, don't sit back and think, "Oh, someone else will do this. I'm too busy right now." Your help is vitally needed.

LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE!