



**Camille Snyder, PT, DPT, APTA-Kansas Chapter President
Proponent Testimony on HB 2279
February 23, 2021
House Health and Human Services Committee**

Madam Chair and Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas State Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2279. I serve as the President of the Kansas Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association and I have served on the Board of Directors as the Standards and Practice Chair and Vice President for over a decade. I have been a practicing Physical Therapist for thirty-two years and have held licenses in six states. In three states, I applied for licensure as a military spouse with differing degrees of reciprocity arrangements from no special arrangements to improved timeliness for a Temporary License as well as for full licensure.

As my esteemed colleagues have testified today, I too see the portability advantages for the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC). In the current healthcare environment, portability of licensed individuals has been identified by many as a critical issue. The federal government has communicated concern about the current portability barriers and there have been several bills submitted to Congress in attempts to address this issue (military spouses, dual licensure system, etc). According to the Federal State Boards of Physical Therapy, there are two ways to increase portability for licensure: 1) increase the efficiencies of the current system that requires licensure to practice in each state and 2) enhance the current system in a way that licensure is not required in each state but still maintains the critical public protection safeguards. Removing licensing barriers is one mechanism to better utilize the existing supply of trained PTs and PTAs.

I would like to share a personal story with you. I recently moved to the Kansas City area so I applied for a Missouri license by reciprocity, having left Missouri 20 years ago. I had to submit reasonable evidence as to why I was fit to practice in Missouri because although I met all the other criteria being licensed in Kansas, Kansas does not require a "letter of good moral character" as a handful of other states do. Because I didn't meet this specific standard but met or exceeded all of the others, it took me over four months to get a Missouri license. If Kansas participated in the PTLC, I would have been able to practice in Missouri seamlessly as Missouri participates in the compact thereby being able to practice within the Kansas City Metro area. The company where I am currently employed serves patients in both states.

I urge your support of HB 2279 so that we can remove barriers, and allow our state and our citizens to have greater healthcare access to physical therapy. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Camille Snyder, PT, DPT, APA