



The Federal Physical Therapy Section Supports Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

PT Licensure Compact legislation is a significant next step in PT licensure. The Compact, once approved and adopted by a state, will allow physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in that state to practice in other Compact states without being licensed in those states. This important legislation would assist military families when they receive permanent change of station orders by enabling licensees who are members of these families to immediately begin to practice physical therapy without the current administrative burden. Additionally, a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who lives in a state in the Compact may be able to practice in a neighboring state participating in the Compact, eliminating delay and administrative burden of obtaining a second license.

This legislation will also benefit patients by potentially increasing access to services within the state in the Compact. In both rural and urban areas, where there is limited access to licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, this legislation may have a positive impact on providing timely and needed therapy services.

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants currently practicing in the Department of Defense are able to practice "in any State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, regardless of whether the practice occurs in a health care facility of the Department of Defense, a civilian facility affiliated with the Department of Defense, or any other location authorized by the Secretary of Defense" as written in Title 10 of the U.S. Code. A PT Licensure Compact would allow civilian physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to practice in a similar manner to the ways those serving the Department of Defense have been practicing since 1988. For those in serving the Department of Defense, a PT Licensure Compact will make it easier to participate in pro bono service opportunities in a state in the Compact. It will also make it easier for service members who are assigned to a state in the Compact to seek off-duty employment.

The Federal Physical Therapy Section is in full support of a PT Licensure Compact.