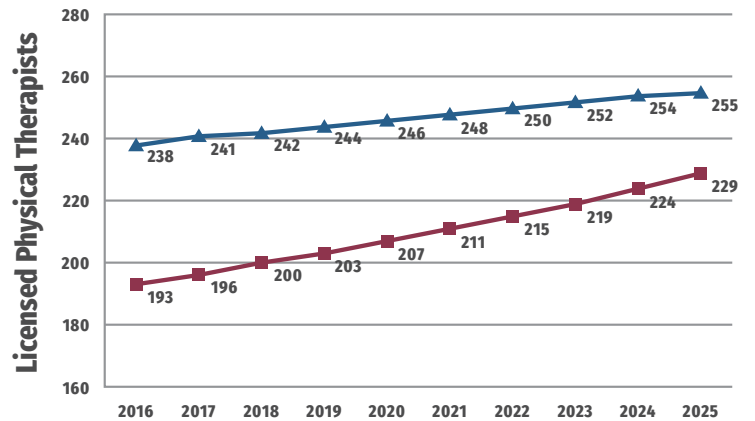


Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act (S. 970 / H.R. 2802)

The United States is currently in the middle of a national shortage of physical therapists and physical therapy professionals. Estimates show that by 2025, an additional 27,000 PTs will be needed to meet demand. This problem is particularly acute in rural areas because many physical therapists are concentrated in major metropolitan areas. Many community-based clinics are eager to invest in underserved communities if they had the resources to recruit more PTs and expand care.

To address this shortage, bipartisan lawmakers have introduced the **Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act (S. 970/H.R. 2802)**, which would enable physical therapists to participate in the National Health Service Corps student loan repayment program.

Physical Therapist Supply & Demand
ALL NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS



Shortage in 2025: 26,560 ■ Supply of FTEs ▲ Demand

BACKGROUND

In an attempt to alleviate shortages of medical professionals around the country, the National Health Service Corps provides student loan relief to medical professionals who commit to serve in a medically underserved or designated health care professional shortage area. Participants would be eligible to receive up to \$50,000 towards their educational costs if they commit to serve in a medically underserved or designated health care professional shortage area. Participants would also be eligible to extend their service to five years to receive up to \$100,000 in student loan repayments.

Unfortunately, the NHSC loan repayment program currently does not allow physical or occupational therapists to participate, despite the fact that many PTs work in NHSC-approved sites like Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), private practices, and outpatient facilities. This makes it difficult for physical therapists to deliver services and open centers in critically underserved markets. Just as Congress is looking to expand the addiction treatment workforce, helping physical therapists enter the profession is a vital way for helping communities address the nation's overreliance on powerful opioids. Enacting bipartisan legislation to address this issue is a crucial first step towards ensuring all Americans, regardless of geographic location, are able to access quality physical therapy services.

Ask Congress: Support the Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act Today (S. 970 / H.R. 2802)