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May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1133 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for the Healthcare Outpatient Provider Emergency (HOPE) Act**

Dear Representative Boyle:

On behalf of the Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation (APTQI), we write to inform you that the Healthcare Outpatient Provider Emergency (HOPE) Act will have our full support. The APTQI is an alliance of the nation's leading providers of outpatient rehabilitation care. Our members collectively employ over 15,000 physical and occupational therapists and furnish physical and occupational therapy services on an annual basis to Medicare beneficiaries in 4,000 outpatient rehabilitation clinical sites throughout the United States.

Our members are deeply concerned about the 8% reduction to therapy services in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) set to begin in 2021. If implemented, these cuts would be just the latest in a series of cuts to therapy services since 2011 which will negatively impact patient access to therapy care. The exemption to the budget neutrality rules contained in the HOPE Act provides the support therapists need to keep their practices open.

Our Medicare beneficiaries in private practice clinics have used telehealth to receive the care they need while having the option to stay in their homes. Unfortunately, this benefit does not extend to institutional settings and the patients in rehabilitation agencies do not have this same benefit. The HOPE Act would allow for telehealth to be a covered benefit for patients receiving services in institutional settings and give them this option even after the emergency period ends.

The HOPE Act also supports a change that would significantly reduce the administrative burden for both therapists and their referring providers. The ability for a therapist to use either a referral or a certified plan of care to demonstrate that the patient is under the care of a physician or non-physician provider will save providers from wasting precious time and resources in sending, tracking, and logging plans of care for patients who already have referrals. This change will make the delivery of therapy services much more efficient.

We thank you for your leadership and efforts to protect our patients and our practices and we look forward to working with you on this bill. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please

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feel free to contact Nikesh “Nick” Patel, PT, DPT Executive Director, at 713-824-6177 or [npatel@aptqi.com](mailto:npatel@aptqi.com).

Very truly yours,

**ALLIANCE FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY  
QUALITY AND INNOVATION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Patel', is written over a horizontal line.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nikesh “Nick” Patel, PT, DPT  
Executive Director