



Please OPPOSE

HB 2482/SB 6407:

Concerning spinal manipulation endorsement requirements for physical therapists.

HB 2482: Macri, Goodman, Harris, Pollet

SB 6407: Van de Wege, Rivers

Background: Four years ago the WSCA engaged in mediation with the Physical Therapy Association of Washington at the request of a legislator to attempt an agreement allowing physical therapists to manipulate the spine. The mediation did not yield an agreement, so the sponsoring legislator drafted a bill which forced an agreement. For a physical therapist to perform spinal manipulation they had to seek and endorsement through the Physical Therapy Licensing Board and show proof of additional hours of education in specific categories. The physical therapist that seeks the endorsement must attest to the training and a supervisor needs to sign the attestation form. As part of that agreement, there was a four-year time frame allowing the supervisor to be out-of-state, and that portion is set to expire June 30, 2020. In the four years that the endorsement has been in effect, the physical therapy association has entered into an interstate compact with 25 additional states. Because of this, the PTWA is seeking to allow the out-of-state supervisor language to remain in the statute rather than expire on June 30, 2020, as scheduled.

2020 Proposed Legislation by PTWA: The bill will allow out-of-state supervisors to continue to attest to the education in spinal manipulation to qualify for the spinal manipulation endorsement.

The WSCA Board of Directors has voted to oppose HB 2482 and SB 6407 for the following reasons:

- The intent of the legislation in 2015 was to give Washington physical therapists an opportunity to develop supervisors who were qualified to sign the attestations for the endorsement requirements
- In 2015 when this legislation passed, it was understood ***as part of an agreement*** that the out-of-state supervision component of the legislation would expire in June 2020
- The agreement included four specific components of training. Only the supervision component is required to be accomplished in Washington State after the expiration
- The physical therapy profession in WA now has an adequate number of supervisors to meet the terms of the legislation (300 endorsements of a possible 7000). ***Less than 5 percent have chosen to seek the spinal manipulation endorsement***
- There is no shortage of access to providers that perform spinal manipulation in Washington
- Health care profession scopes of practice vary from state to state. Even chiropractic has different scopes of practice throughout the country-and Washington State is the most restrictive
- Physical therapists practicing in Washington, whether from out-of-state or not, are still able to practice physical therapy without a spinal manipulation endorsement.
- This expiration does not stop physical therapists from participating in the compact, or from performing spinal manipulation – it simply requires the out-of-state physical therapist to perform spinal manipulation under the supervision of a Washington state supervisor until they qualify for the endorsement, ***if they choose***