

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY REPRESENTATIVE FRIEMAN

A RESOLUTION

To commend the American Physical Therapy Association on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the American Physical Therapy Association, or APTA, is the leading professional membership organization for the physical therapy profession; its mission is to build a community that advances the profession of physical therapy in order to improve the overall health of Americans; and

WHEREAS, physical therapy in the United States is rooted in the work of reconstruction aides during World War I; these aides were strong women who played an integral role in the recovery and rehabilitation of injured soldiers and whose incredible efforts demonstrated their value as both medical professionals and war heroes; and

WHEREAS, many women throughout American history laid the foundation for the modern practice of physical therapy: Mary McMillan served as a reconstruction aide and was elected in 1921 as the first president of the American Women's Physical Therapeutic Association; Emma Vogel initiated the first war emergency training course during World War II at Walter Reed General Hospital in 1941, which consisted of six month of instruction followed by another six months of supervised practice at military hospitals; and Lucy Blair served as the staff coordinator for physical therapists on Dr. Jonah Salk's national response team during the polio epidemic of the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, efforts to establish a two-year graduate education program for physical therapists first arose in 1960 at Case Western Reserve University, and the first two graduating classes of physical therapist assistants entered the workforce after graduating in 1969 from programs at Miami-Dade Community College in Florida and St. Mary's Junior College in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the first physical therapy department at a historically black college or university was established at Howard University in 1974; and

WHEREAS, the APTA launched the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy in 1978; the commission was nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole entity that grants specialized accreditation status to entry-level education programs for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; and

WHEREAS, the first physical therapy doctoral degree candidates graduated from Creighton University in 1996; today, all physical therapists are educated at the clinical doctoral level; and

WHEREAS, the APTA launched the "Campaign for Future Generations" in 2020 to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts for the association and the physical therapy profession; and

WHEREAS, the APTA has contributed significantly to the physical therapy profession and, consequently, to the health of all Americans; it is most deserving of recognition on its one hundredth anniversary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the American Physical Therapy Association on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary; does hereby recognize the APTA for its dedication to improving the health of society over the last one hundred years; does hereby further recognize that the APTA and its members are essential partners to meeting the future health and wellness needs of our country; and does hereby extend sincere hopes that the APTA enjoy another one hundred years of progress and prosperity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the American Physical Therapy Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES