

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR FRED MILLS

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS. Commends the American Physical Therapy Association on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary.

1 A RESOLUTION

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

4 WHEREAS, the American Physical Therapy Association, also known as the APTA,
5 is the leading professional membership organization for the physical therapy profession with
6 a mission to build a community that advances the profession of physical therapy in order to
7 improve the overall health of Americans; and

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

12 WHEREAS, many women throughout American history laid the foundation for the
13 modern practice of physical therapy: Mary McMillan served as a reconstruction aide and
14 was elected in 1921 as the first president of the American Women's Physical Therapeutic
15 Association; Emma Vogel initiated the first war emergency training course during World
16 War II at Walter Reed General Hospital in 1941; and Lucy Blair served as the staff
17 coordinator for physical therapists on Dr. Jonah Salk's national response team during the
18 polio epidemic of the 1950s; and

1 WHEREAS, efforts to establish a two-year graduate education program for physical
2 therapists first arose in 1960 at Case Western Reserve University, and the first two
3 graduating classes of physical therapist assistants entered the workforce after graduating in
4 1969 from programs at Miami-Dade Community College in Florida and St. Mary's Junior
5 College in Minnesota; and

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

8 WHEREAS, in 1978, the American Physical Therapy Association launched the
9 Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy which was nationally recognized by the
10 United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation
11 as the sole entity that grants specialized accreditation status to entry-level education
12 programs for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; and

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

16 WHEREAS, the American Physical Therapy Association launched the "Campaign
17 for Future Generations" in 2020 to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts for the
18 association and the physical therapy profession.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
20 does hereby commend the American Physical Therapy Association on the occasion of its one
21 hundredth anniversary and its dedication to improving the health of society over the last one
22 hundred years, and recognizes that the APTA and its members are essential partners to
23 meeting the future health and wellness needs of our country.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.
