

May 10, 2016

AN ACT to amend the education law, in
relation to the practice of physical therapy

S. 4969 (LaValle)

A. 6092 (Schimel)

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The New York Physical Therapy Association (“NYPTA”), which represents the interests of 12,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and physical therapy students in New York, supports S.4969/A.6092, which would allow the abbreviation of “D.P.T” to only be used by licensed physical therapists holding a doctor of physical therapy degree.

The education requirements set forth in the Education Law relating to the practice of physical therapy were amended in 2011 to require applicants for physical therapy licensure to complete a master’s degree or higher in physical therapy. “D.P.T.” is the nationally recognized abbreviation for a “Doctor of Physical Therapy”, and is protected by physical therapy practice acts in states throughout the country for use by individuals holding a Doctor of Physical Therapy. S.4969/A.6092 would restrict the use of the abbreviation “D.P.T.” to only those licensed physical therapists holding a doctor of physical therapy degree. Protection of the term “D.P.T.” will protect the public by limiting the use of the term to only those individuals appropriately trained, educated, and licensed.

For these reasons, NYPTA supports the enactment of this legislation.