

House Resolution 329

By: Representatives Bennett of the 94th, Mainor of the 56th, Hutchinson of the 107th, Davis of the 87th, Bazemore of the 63rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Physical Therapy Association; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is the leading professional
4 membership organization for the physical therapy profession with the mission of building a
5 community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, reconstruction aides, strong women who were the predecessors to current
8 physical therapists, were integral to the recovery of many World War I soldiers,
9 demonstrating their value as medical professionals and war heroes and showing that those
10 who would eventually be known as physical therapists had a major role to play in the future
11 of America's health; and

12 WHEREAS, Mary McMillan, a reconstruction aide, was elected in 1921 as the first president
13 of the American Women's Physical Therapeutic Association; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1926, Franklin D. Roosevelt received successful physical therapy treatment
15 in Warm Springs, Georgia, after hearing of positive results for patients with polio. He soon

16 after started the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, and in 1927, the American Orthopedic
17 Association designated Warm Springs a permanent hydrotherapeutic center; and

18 WHEREAS, Emma Vogel initiated the first War Emergency Training Course of World War
19 II at Walter Reed General Hospital in 1941, consisting of six months of concentrated didactic
20 instruction followed by six months of supervised practice at a military hospital; and

21 WHEREAS, Lucy Blair was a part of Dr. Jonah Salk's national response to the polio
22 epidemic in the early 1950s, serving as the staff coordinator for physical therapists; and

23 WHEREAS, the effort to launch a two-year graduate education program for physical
24 therapists began at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1960; and

25 WHEREAS, the first physical therapy education program in Georgia began in 1970 at
26 Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, with Dr. Patricia Yarborough as chairperson;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the first two classes of physical therapist assistants entered the workforce after
29 graduating in 1969 from education programs at Miami-Dade Community College in Florida
30 and St. Mary's Junior College in Minnesota (now St. Catherine University); and

31 WHEREAS, the first physical therapist assistant program in Georgia began in 1975 at
32 Medical College of Georgia (now Augusta University) with Karen Grube as chairperson; and

33 WHEREAS, the first physical therapy department at a Historically Black College or
34 University was established at Howard University in 1974 by Dr. Gene Gary Williams; and

35 WHEREAS, in 1978, APTA launched the Commission on Accreditation in Physical
36 Therapy, which gained national recognition by the United States Department of Education
37 and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole entity that grants specialized
38 accreditation status to qualified entry-level education programs for physical therapists and
39 physical therapist assistants; and

40 WHEREAS, the first Doctor of Physical Therapy students graduated from Creighton
41 University in 1996, and as of 2015, all physical therapists are educated at the clinical doctoral
42 level; and

43 WHEREAS, the vision of the physical therapy profession is to transform society by
44 optimizing movement to improve the human experience; and

45 WHEREAS, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants treat people where they are
46 and provide care to people in many settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient
47 clinics, homes, schools, sports teams and fitness facilities, the armed forces of the United
48 States, veterans facilities, work settings, and nursing homes; and

49 WHEREAS, physical therapy is effective in reducing pain, such as low back pain, as
50 evidenced by a growing body of research for physical therapist treatment of low back pain;
51 and

52 WHEREAS, students of physical therapy are being educated to address the health care needs
53 of Americans for the next 100 years; and

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

57 WHEREAS, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants have faced the challenge of
58 the COVID-19 pandemic head on, treating the most vulnerable; building on their proud
59 history of work in the polio pandemic; and playing an essential role in treating people who
60 are beginning to recover from the most severe effects of the novel coronavirus, both during
61 their time in the hospital and after they leave, for as long as it takes to improve function.

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
63 the members of this body recognize both the American Physical Therapy Association for its
64 dedication to improving the health of society over the past 100 years and the American
65 Physical Therapy Association of Georgia for its contributions to physical health.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body recognize that both the
67 American Physical Therapy Association and the American Physical Therapy Association of
68 Georgia, as well as their members, are essential for meeting the future health and wellness
69 needs of our country.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
71 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
72 public and the press.