

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Physical
2 Therapy Association.

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, Lucy Blair was a part of Jonas Salk's national response to the polio
15 epidemic in the late 1950s, serving as the staff coordinator for physical therapists; and

16 WHEREAS, the effort to launch a two-year graduate education program for
17 physical therapists began at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in
18 1960; and

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

23 WHEREAS, the first physical therapy department as a history Black college or
24 university was established at Howard University in 1974; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1978, the American Physical Therapy Association launched the
26 Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy, which gained national recognition by
27 the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education

1 Accreditation as the sole entity that grants specialized accreditation status to qualified
2 entry-level education programs for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the first doctor of physical therapy students graduated from Creighton
5 University in 1996, and as of 2015 all physical therapists were educated at the clinical
6 doctoral level; and

7 WHEREAS, the vision of the physical therapy profession is transforming society by
8 optimizing movement to improve human experience; and

9 WHEREAS, given that the United States Department of Health and Human
10 Services indicated that more than 80 percent of adults and adolescents do not get enough
11 physical activity and that regular activity is one of the most important ways to improve
12 health, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are critical to health services
13 teams as movement experts who improve quality of life by addressing pain or chronic
14 conditions that limit participation in activities, and by reducing the risk for chronic
15 disease, enhancing fitness, and preventing injuries through hands-on care, patient
16 education, and prescribed movement based on rigorous research; and

17 WHEREAS, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants treat people where
18 they are, providing care to people in many settings, including hospitals, private practices,
19 outpatient clinics, homes, schools, sports teams and fitness facilities, the United States
20 Armed Forces, veterans facilities, work settings, and nursing homes; and

21 WHEREAS, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants treat individuals
22 across the lifespan and have clinical expertise in 18 specialty areas: Acute Care, Aquatics,
23 Cardiovascular and Pulmonary, Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management,
24 Education, Federal, Geriatrics, Hand and Upper Extremity, Health Policy and
25 Administration, Home Health, Neurology, Oncology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Pelvic
26 Health, Private Practice, Research, and Sports; and

27 WHEREAS, physical therapy is effective in reducing pain, such as low back pain,

1 as evidenced by a growing body of research for physical therapist treatment of low back
2 pain that includes a 2018 study published in *Health Services Research* showing that
3 physical therapy as a first-line approach not only saves money but also dramatically
4 reduces the chance of receiving a prescription for dangerous opioids; and

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

7 WHEREAS, in 2020, the American Physical Therapy Association launched the
8 Campaign for Future Generations to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts for
9 the association and the physical therapy profession; and

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

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

17 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
18 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

19 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes the American Physical
20 Therapy Association for its dedication to improving the health of society over the past
21 100 years.

22 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives recognizes the American Physical
23 Therapy Association and its members as essential partners to meeting the future health
24 and wellness needs of our country.

25 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
26 copy of this Resolution to Representative Melinda Gibbons Prunty.