

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATORS FRED MILLS AND PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, the American Physical Therapy Association, also known as the APTA, is the leading professional membership organization for the physical therapy profession with a mission 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 World War I reconstruction aides; 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; 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, in 1978, the American Physical Therapy Association launched the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy which was nationally recognized by the United States 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 American Physical Therapy Association launched the "Campaign for Future Generations" in 2020 to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts for the association and the physical therapy profession.

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

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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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE