



March 10, 2025, 8:00AM

Committee on Government Affairs

Video-conferenced to Room 1 of the Nevada Legislature Hearing Rooms

7120 Amigo Street, Las Vegas, NV.

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President, American Physical Therapy Assoc. Nevada (APTANV)

Testimony for AB 269: AN ACT relating to education; expanding the applicability of the Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities Program

Thank you Chair Considine and Committee members

My name is Susan Priestman (**PRIESTMAN**), I have been a physical therapist for 40 years, practicing in NV for the past 30 years. I am the president of APTA Nevada, the professional association for physical therapy in Nevada. Physical therapists work in a myriad of settings including hospitals, post-acute settings, such as rehabilitation hospitals, SNFs, long term acute care hospitals (LTACHs). We also work in home health, emergency departments and outpatient settings. PTs are **direct access** practitioners, who are **trained at the doctorate** level. PTs specialize in orthopedics, neurology, cardiopulmonary, pelvic health, pediatrics, wound care and sports medicine. We order diagnostic imaging and as appropriate, refer patients to many other healthcare practitioners to provide the patient the most efficient pathway for healing.

These versatile roles contribute to our value in an underserved community. PTs are also skilled in pain science education. We can be a powerful alternative to opioids for patients in pain.

I am here to support the amendment to AB 269 to add Physical Therapists to the list of providers eligible to work in underserved areas in exchange for loan repayment. Physical therapists have no other vehicle for student loan repayment at the federal or state level and look for ways to stay in our state. PT's have serious workforce challenges in NV. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, PTs are 50/51 jurisdictions in PT per capita. This scarcity of PTs is amplified in rural and underserved areas.

We'd like to **thank** Assemblymember D'Silva for sponsoring AB 269 and the Treasurer's Office for accepting the amendment. **Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.**