Greetings!

The Minnesota legislature convened this week and our State Government Affairs Committee, including Chairs Kathleen Picard, Anne Johnson and our lobbyist Randy Morris, have been very active in the interim with planning and meetings. Our Chapter has a very positive reputation at the State Capital which allows us to embark on an ambitious legislative agenda.

Our work began well before the session by meeting with stakeholders of the issues MNPTA is addressing. We participated recently in the Caucus fundraisers for legislators from both parties in the House and Senate. When we introduced ourselves as physical therapists, we received two common responses; the legislator either knew a PT/PTA in their district or had a personal, positive experience with physical therapy.

This year we are introducing two bills, each of which will improve access to our services:

Bill I: Consumer Access to the Physical Therapist: This bill removes the 90-day limitation on access as well as the 1 year limited access to newly licensed Doctors of Physical Therapy.

Bill II: Disability Parking Authorization: This bill authorizes Physical Therapists to prescribe disability parking permits.

In addition to the two bills, we have a 3rd major initiative focused on coming to agreement with the MN Athletic Trainers Association. Since last summer, our legislative team has been engaged in a series of meetings with the MATA leadership. As a result, we’ve developed an understanding of what it is that MATA is seeking and have agreed to support new language that allows for licensure of athletic trainers and some non-controversial technical changes. Should there be an attempt to amend the language to expand the scope of practice we would rescind our support. We have also agreed to continue discussions around the scope of practice changes once the session ends in May.
When our bills are introduced and the time is right, we will call on you to connect with your representatives urging them to support these important initiatives. We will provide key messages to assist you in this process. If you do not know who your representative is, you can find them using this link: https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/

This is a very short session and an election year so your voice is more important than ever.

Thank you in advance for your advocacy and passion.

Paul Niemuth
MNPTA Chapter President.