

Honorable Delegate Anderson

I am Dr. Matthew Fiano and I am a constituent in your district and a Physical Therapist. I am writing you to ask that you support and Vote yes on SB1005 (Hashmi)/HB2359 (Farris). The Virginia Physical Therapy association worked with the Orthopedic Society of Virginia when they developed the Language of SB1005/HB2359 to ensure it fit the needs of all stakeholders.

SB1005/HB2359 seeks to remove barriers to Care for People who seek out Physical Therapy in Virginia. The following changes will occur with SB1005/HB2359:

1. Currently there is a 60 day limit on the time a Person can see a Physical therapist in Virginia. This time limit will be removed. This will lead to uninterrupted treatment—the current 60-day timeframe causes many patients to interrupt treatment until they are able to obtain a prescription for additional treatment by their PT. In many cases, the interruption causes lengthy delays in treatment and drives up patient cost when the patient would simply require a few more visits to complete their care.
2. Adds Trigger point Dry Needling to the list of Modalities that can be performed under direct access. PT's can perform Trigger point Dry Needling with specific training and certification requirements under current Virginia Law but it requires the prescription of a Physician. This bill removes the need for a Prescription but leaves in place the education and certification requirements. Many Physicians Order Dry Needling for their patients. This makes it easier for a patient to seek out dry Needling with out compromising safety and appropriately maintains the education requirements. This includes a Compromise with the Acupuncture groups that includes a provision that links to the code section that states a PT shall not present themselves as an Acupuncturist unless licensed as an Acupuncturist and a reporting requirement to provide a report to the legislature in 2024 documenting any adverse events related to Dry Needling.
3. Reducing Physicians Administrative Burden. It will be Helpful to keep physicians from having to take appointments for patients who do not need imaging, medications, or surgical interventions and reduces unnecessary paperwork where Physicians will not have to take time to sign paperwork, plans of care for those who need continued care and prescriptions for Dry Needling —allows them to focus their time and energy on caring for patients who truly need their care.

In 2021, the Virginia General Assembly **unanimously** extended the previous limit of 30 days to 60 days via SB1187 (Hashmi). By eliminating the 60-day requirement, Virginia will join 20 other states (to include North Carolina, Kentucky, West Virginia and Maryland) with unrestricted Direct Access for patients. \*Note--all 50 states have varying forms of Direct Access. It is important to note that this measure contains no insurance mandates nor does the bill expand or change PT's scope of practice.

Thank you for your time and attention and I hope I can Count on your support for SB1005.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Thank you!