



July 7, 2023

Honorable Senator Laird  
1021 O Street, Suite 8720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 544, Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing – Support Position**

Dear Senator Laird,

The Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC) Board President, Tonia McMillian took an interim support position on SB 544 on the April 27, 2023, version of the bill.

The PTBC's mission is to advance and protect the interests of the people of California by the effective administration of the Physical Therapy Practice Act. If this bill is passed, the PTBC intends to adhere to its mandate to meet in-person at least once in Northern California and once in Southern California (BPC section 2611). During the PTBC's 2021 Sunset Review, the Board recommended amending BPC section 2611 to require the Board to provide online access in addition to its existing mandate of in-person Board meetings. The PTBC believes that requiring the use of an online platform, would increase consumer and stakeholder access and participation; and is more effective than a teleconference. This requirement is intended as an additional point of access, not as a replacement or in lieu of the existing mandate.

SB 544 amends the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to allow meetings to be conducted remotely, while maintaining a method for greater public access. The PTBC believes this legislation will provide an option to meet remotely at any time and allow for an enhanced method for public participation. While the PTBC fully intends to continue to meet in-person for each meeting, the PTBC has found that meeting remotely in the last three years has provided opportunities for increased public access.

Thank you on behalf of the PTBC for your thoughtful consideration of this request. If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact the PTBC's Executive Officer, Jason Kaiser at (916) 561-8278.

Sincerely,

Tonia McMillian  
President, Physical Therapy Board of California

Cc:

Assembly Member Miguel Santiago, Chair of the Governmental Organization Committee  
Jennifer Simoes, Deputy Director, Division of Legislative Affairs, Department of  
Consumer Affairs