To: Representatives who serve on the House Health Policy Committee  
From: Michigan Physical Therapy Association  
Re: OPPOSE HB 4712 - Stop Chiropractic Prescriptive Authority over Physical Therapy  
Date: October 5, 2015

The Michigan House Health Policy Committee (HHPC) is scheduled to vote on HB 4712 on Tuesday, October 6th. This bill would give chiropractors prescriptive authority over physical therapy.

**MPTA is strongly opposed to HB 4712.** It is simply BAD public policy. **We urge you to vote NO.**

- **Prescription** is not the same as **referral**. There are only 5 states in which Chiropractors may prescribe physical therapy. There is a reason why. This is not a simple difference.

- This bill is not about access to physical therapy. **HB 4712 expands the chiropractic scope of practice** by granting prescriptive authority over another health care profession and does so by amending another profession’s scope of practice rather than their own. That authority granted to chiropractors would conflict with existing limitations in the chiropractic scope of practice.

- Current Michigan law allows chiropractors to **ONLY order tests** like x-rays ([not actual](#)) treatment by another health care provider).
  - Statute already states that the relationship between chiropractors and other health care providers is to offer advice to seek treatment, **i.e. to REFER** …**not to prescribe** treatment by other health care providers.

- Chiropractors **can already REFER** a patient to physical therapy. HB 4712 does not address any public health need for the people in the state of Michigan; direct access to physical therapy services became effective for the citizens of Michigan on January 1, 2015.

- **Medicare**, after extensive review of the evidence, **does not allow chiropractors to approve a PT plan of care** for a Medicare beneficiary **because it is inappropriate**.

- Chiropractors and physical therapists are economic competitors in the outpatient clinical market e.g. patients with spine pain, overuse injuries, weekend warriors, etc.
  - It is not appropriate to change Michigan law to give a legal advantage to chiropractors
  - HB 4712 would have a negative impact on hundreds of physical therapist small businesses throughout Michigan.

- Chiropractors have a limited scope of practice under Michigan law; physical therapists also have a limited scope of practice under Michigan law.
  - The Public Health Code requires a referral back to the prescribing professional. If a prescription comes from a Chiropractor, but the patient needs medication or surgery, the delay in services before seeing an MD/DO **may be detrimental to the patient**.

**OPPOSE HB 4712 – Vote No!**