Representative (Insert name of legislator)

State House Bldg Room #

City, State, Zip code

Dear Representative (NAME),

My name is (insert name). As your constituent in (town) and a member of the RI American Physical Therapy Association (RIAPTA), I am writing to urge you to support **HB No. 5142** relating to the practice of physical therapy. This bill would allow physical therapists (PTs) to order diagnostic imaging for their patients. This would allow PTs to function more effectively as direct-access providers in RI by facilitating patient management decisions, reducing the time and cost of ordering imaging, and ultimately improving patient care. Currently there is no language that clarifies ordering of diagnostic imaging and studies in RI by physical therapists.

Research shows that PTs have equivalent abilities as orthopedic surgeons in diagnostic accuracy of musculoskeletal conditions and in correctly making referrals to other providers for services such as diagnostic imaging. Moreover, the research shows that PTs are actually *more* accurate diagnostically than non-orthopedic providers in evaluating people with musculoskeletal conditions. In fact, when patient care is managed by a physical therapist, there is a 50% reduction in radiographic examinations without a reduction in patient safety, meaning costs would go down for patients and insurers.

(Insert personal story here if applicable)

Physical therapists address the mobility needs of tens-of-thousands of Rhode Islanders each year. They are essential members of the health care team, and play an important role in the management of injuries and disease. The current system of cross-referrals to other providers for diagnostic imaging forces patients into unnecessary doctors’ office visits resulting in delays, dissatisfaction, and increased costs for constituents. **HB 5142** would ensure that patients receive an efficient evidence-based course of care that meets the needs of cost containment and patient satisfaction, while also alleviating the ever-increasing demands on primary care providers.

I urge you to support physical therapists in providing economically responsible care by voting in support of **HB 5142.**

Thank you for your support!

(Sign your name)

(Write your name and address here)