

April 10, 2017

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My wife and I have both been traveling Physical Therapists for the past 10 years. Traveling Physical Therapists, like traveling nurses or locum tenens Physicians, fill temporary openings in staffing for several months at a time. The typical starting length for a traveling contract is 13 weeks, but they can last up to 1-year.

Our first travel assignments in Colorado were during the summer of 2007 in Pueblo. We were lucky enough to find work in Aspen that winter and have returned the past 10 years. Aspen has gradually become home, and we now live and work here permanently.

One of the greatest challenges a traveling physical therapist faces is the lack of license portability across state lines. Currently, in order to bring your PT license into most states, including Colorado, a therapist must have any state they have ever been licensed in verify his or her license status - having a license verified typically requires filling out verification requests by hand, putting it in the mail to the states you need verification from, and waiting for each state to process the request and send a physical copy by mail to the Colorado licensure board. If someone is trying to come to Colorado to work as a PT, they are at the mercy of all of the other states they have previously worked in, for me, this is 7 different states. I worked in Illinois – they have a standing 6-week waiting period before they process any forms. On separate occasions, both MA and VT processed my verifications, but failed to actually forward the verification along to the state board that needed it – by the time I realized the verifications were overdue and was able to contact the licensure boards, 3 to 4 additional weeks had been added to the process. *It is not unusual for it to take 2 to 3 months to transfer a license from another state, but it can take longer depending on which states are involved.*

Practices hired my wife and I temporarily as travelers for a variety of different reasons. A lot of my contracts have been completed in rural areas that have no PT programs nearby to fill the needed work force – this was the case in Pueblo. There are many communities in Colorado that have perpetual openings for travelers – Pueblo, Durango, Montrose, and Rifle come immediately to my mind, but there are always many openings across the state. In Aspen, as is true with many of the other resorts towns in CO, 5 or 6 traveling therapists are hired seasonally each winter to help fulfill the staffing needs that come with increased population and injuries in the winter months. Other contracts are for companies that have immediate needs from an employee's unexpected illness, a maternity leave, or from having an employee leave the practice. Practices with unanticipated openings are the most adversely affected by our current licensure program. *These practices don't need temporary staff in several months, they need help immediately. Adopting the PT interstate licensure compact would allow the practices to more quickly attract qualified staff and return to business as usual serving their patients.*

Right now, somewhere in Colorado, there is a clinic who has hired a traveler. The PT is well qualified, the clinic needs them, patients are lined up out the door waiting for appointments – and everyone is waiting on a PT license verification to show up in the mail from another state. The Interstate PT Compact would eliminate their wait. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. James R Spencer, DPT

1898

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year. It is followed by a detailed account of the various expeditions and the results obtained. The report concludes with a summary of the work done and the prospects for the future.

The second part of the report contains a list of the names of the various expeditions and the names of the persons who took part in them. It also contains a list of the names of the various places visited and the names of the various objects collected. The list is arranged in alphabetical order and is followed by a list of the names of the various persons who have been mentioned in the report.

The third part of the report contains a list of the names of the various objects collected and the names of the persons who collected them. It also contains a list of the names of the various places where the objects were collected. The list is arranged in alphabetical order and is followed by a list of the names of the various persons who have been mentioned in the report.

The fourth part of the report contains a list of the names of the various persons who have been mentioned in the report and the names of the various places where they were mentioned. The list is arranged in alphabetical order and is followed by a list of the names of the various persons who have been mentioned in the report.

1898