

September 4, 2013

Dear Members of the Health Care Reform Review Committee:

This memorandum is offered to provide a brief overview of the physical therapy workforce within the state of North Dakota.

The current licensure database lists 720 licensed physical therapists but only 557 have a ND work address. There are 164 licensed physical therapist assistants but only 116 have a ND work address. These numbers represent an increase of 57 PT's and 16 PTA's since the 2010 report. The ratio of physical therapists to 1000 residents is 0.80 which is slightly higher than the ratio reported in 2010 (ratio = 0.77 per 1000 residents).

There are three physical therapy educational programs within the state and no physical therapist assistant programs. The three physical therapy programs include the University of Mary in Bismarck, the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, and Jamestown College (candidate for accreditation) in Fargo. The University of May expects 33 and 34 graduates in 2014 and 2015 respectively. The University of North Dakota expects 46 and 48 graduates in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Jamestown College anticipates its first graduating class of 36 students in 2016. Retention of graduates in physical therapy to practice in ND from the University of Mary is approximately 33% while the University of North Dakota averages 30% during the 2012 and 2013 graduation classes.

Sincerely,



David Relling, PT, PhD

ND Board of Physical Therapy