

**2023 SENATE TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 2191**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2191  
1/19/2023

Relating to adding physical therapists as health care professionals who can sign statements for applications for mobility-impaired parking certificates; and to provide a penalty.
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**11:54 AM Chairman Clemens** opens hearing.

Senators present: **Clemens, Conley, Larsen, Rummel, Paulson**

**Discussion Topics:**

- Degree needed for Physical Therapy
- Certificate of disability

**11:54 AM Senator Randy Burckhard** introduced bill. #14504

**11:55 AM Jack McDonald**, in favor.

**11:56 AM John Schueller, University of Mary Physical Therapy Student**, in favor. #14498

**12:00 PM Catherine Stalock, American Physical Therapy Association ND**, in favor. #14497

**Additional written testimony:**

Chris Kraemer #14501

**12:05 PM Chairman Clemens** adjourns hearing.

*Nathan Liesen, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2191  
1/19/2023

Relating to adding physical therapists as health care professionals who can sign statements for applications for mobility-impaired parking certificates; and to provide a penalty.

**2:45 PM Chairman Clemens** starts meeting.

Senators present: **Clemens, Conley, Larsen, Rummel, Paulson.**

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

**2:45 PM Senator Larsen** motioned for Do Pass.

**2:45 PM Senator Rummel** seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Doug Larsen	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0

**2:46 PM Senator Conley** will carry.

**2:47 PM Chairman Clemens** adjourns meeting.

*Nathan Liesen, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2191: Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2191 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**2023 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2191**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2191  
3/1/2023

Relating to adding physical therapists as health care professionals who can sign statements for applications for mobility-impaired parking certificates; and to provide a penalty.
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Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, and Gretchen Dobervich present. Reps. Clayton Fegley and Jayme Davis not present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Therapy services

Sen. Bukhard introduced SB 2191, speaking in favor of bill.

Jack McDonald, American Physical Therapist Association, spoke in favor.

Catherine Staloch, on behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association North Dakota, supportive testimony (#21346).

Michael Olson, attorney at Protection and Advocacy, supportive testimony (#21380).

### **Additional written testimony:**

Chris Kraemer, member of the American Physical Therapy Association, supportive testimony (#21535).

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 1:41 PM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2191  
3/1/2023

Relating to adding physical therapists as health care professionals who can sign statements for applications for mobility-impaired parking certificates; and to provide a penalty.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 2:19 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, Jayme Davis, and Gretchen Dobervich present. Rep. Clayton Fegley not present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

Chairman Weisz called for a discussion on SB 2191.

Rep. Frelich moved a do pass on SB 2191.

Seconded by Rep. Prichard.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	AB
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y

Motion carries 13-0-1.

Carried by Rep. Prichard.

House Human Services Committee

SB 2191

3/1/2023

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Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 2:22 PM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2191: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2191 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY**

**SB 2191**

Thursday January 19, 2023  
Senate Transportation Committee  
SB 2191

### **Chairman Clemens and Committee Members**

My name is Catherine Staloch. I am testifying on behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association North Dakota (APTA ND) Chapter, which I am a member of. I am a practicing physical therapist (PT) who graduated with her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of North Dakota in 2006. I have practiced in North Dakota for 16 years in various settings working with geriatric and neurologic patient populations. I currently teach at the University of Mary in the physical therapy program. I am asking for your support of SB 2191 to add physical therapists as qualified professionals who can issue special identifying certificates to individuals with mobility impairments.

Physical therapists are considered mobility experts and have undergone extensive training in evaluating mobility across the lifespan. Training includes assessment of gait, transfers, strength, range of motion, balance, and cardiopulmonary fitness, all of which impact an individual's mobility status and function. Furthermore, physical therapists work with individuals with mobility impairments in all practice settings and with diverse diagnoses and needs, such as following a surgical procedure, and chronic conditions, such as Parkinson's disease.

Adding physical therapists as qualified providers will streamline and improve patient experiences in urban and rural North Dakota. North Dakota has direct access, allowing patients to receive physical therapy services without seeing their medical provider (medical doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) first. Often patients with mobility impairments will see a physical therapist without their primary care provider having first-hand knowledge of their current condition. During my time in clinical practice, I had numerous patients ask if I could assist them in obtaining a special identifying certificate. Unfortunately, I could not and had to refer them to another provider who could provide this service. Furthermore, I have had physicians, and other providers reach out to me for my knowledge of the patient's mobility status when completing the application or considering the patient's need for the certificate. Reducing the burden of other health care providers will be another essential improvement with the addition of physical therapists, reducing time and improving efficiencies of services, thereby reducing the overall cost of care and services.

APTA ND, representing physical therapists across the state who provide services to individuals with mobility impairments, respectfully requests your DO PASS on SB 2191.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, I would be happy to try to answer them.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Catherine Staloch, PT, DPT  
Board Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist  
[cstaloch@umary.edu](mailto:cstaloch@umary.edu)  
701-739-0436

Thursday January 19th, 2023  
Senate Transportation Committee  
Senate Bill Number 2191

Chairman Clemens and Committee Members,

My name is John Schueller. I would like to thank you for having me here today. I am testifying in support of SB2191. I am currently a 3rd year physical therapy student at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND on track to graduate with my Doctor of Physical Therapy in April 2023. Upon graduation, it is my intention to continue residing and working in North Dakota. Therefore, I have personal and professional interest in this bill as a future physical therapist.

Physical therapists play a vital role in the rehabilitation and recovery of patients with mobility impairments. These patients often require mobility impaired parking certificates to ensure appropriate accessibility to buildings and parking areas. As front-line healthcare professionals, physical therapists have the appropriate educational training to be able to assess the mobility needs of their patients/clients and determine if a mobility impaired parking certificate is necessary during their recovery from an injury or as a result of their long-term mobility status due to a variety of disabling conditions (some examples include stroke, amputation, or rheumatoid arthritis). In my education, we have learned and practiced many tests and screenings such as fall risk assessments, gait and wheelchair mobility, energy expenditure with walking, and speed and distance of walking that appropriately identify individuals with mobility impairments that would require a mobility impaired parking certificate.

Allowing physical therapists in ND to sign off on mobility impaired parking permits for patients/clients who need them would improve the overall accessibility and convenience for those patients/clients with mobility impairments. This would also help to reduce the burden on other healthcare professionals, such as primary care physicians, who are currently responsible for assessing patients' need for these parking certificates. Additionally, physical therapists can educate patients/clients in the rules and responsibilities associated with using mobility impaired certificates.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would ask that you vote yes as you consider SB2191. If you have any questions, I would be happy to try to answer them for you.

Sincerely,

John Schueller, SPT  
Jvschueller1@umary.edu  
(605) 295-1231

January 17, 2023

CHAIRMAN CLEMENS AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

Good morning. My name is Chris Kraemer. I am a private practice owner and physical therapist practicing in Fargo, ND. I am testifying on my own behalf and as a member of the American Physical Therapy Association – ND branch in support of SB 2191. This bill would add physical therapists to a list of health care professionals who can sign statements for applications for handicapped parking permits.

I have practiced in outpatient orthopedic settings for twenty-five years in North Dakota. During that time, many of my patients have needed handicapped parking passes and have asked me to sign their permit applications.

Physical therapists have a unique knowledge of their patients' physical capabilities and functional limitations and are thus sufficiently qualified to make this determination. In the past, I have had to coordinate this process with the patient's physician, which is an administrative burden and costly barrier to the timely acquisition of these permits for the patients. Often times, the physician was either located in another town or his or her appointments were three or four weeks out, making the obtainment of these permits more cumbersome than need be.

I respectfully request that you give SB 2191 a DO PASS. Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,

Chris Kraemer PT, MPT, OCS, cert. MDT, CSMT

Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist

(701) 371-5718

ckraemer@rehabauthority.com

January 19, 2023

SB 2191

**Senator Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation Committee:**

My name is Sen. Randy Burckhard. I represent District 5 – Minot. I have sponsored many bills for the North Dakota chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association during past sessions and am pleased to sponsor SB 2148.

This bill adds physical therapists to the list of health care providers who can a statement for a mobility-impaired person to use in applying for a parking permit. My understanding is there have been no objections to this bill from the other listed health care providers.

You will be hearing from a practicing physical therapist as well as physical therapy students who will give you more information about why this legislation is needed.

I ask for your favorable consideration of SB 2191. Thank you for your time.

Wednesday March 1, 2023  
House Human Services Committee  
SB 2191

### **Chairman Weisz and Committee Members**

My name is Catherine Staloch. I am testifying on behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association North Dakota (APTA ND) Chapter, which I am a member of. I am a practicing physical therapist (PT) who graduated with her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of North Dakota in 2006. I have practiced in North Dakota for 16 years in various settings working with geriatric and neurologic patient populations. I currently teach at the University of Mary in the physical therapy program. I am asking for your support of SB 2191 to add physical therapists as qualified professionals who can issue special identifying certificates to individuals with mobility impairments.

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APTA ND, representing physical therapists across the state who provide services to individuals with mobility impairments, respectfully requests your DO PASS on SB 2191.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, I would be happy to try to answer them.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Catherine Staloch, PT, DPT  
Board Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist  
[cstaloch@umary.edu](mailto:cstaloch@umary.edu)  
701-739-0436



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701.328.2950

**House Human Services Committee**

**Senate Bill 2191– March 1, 2023**

**Testimony of Micah Olson, P&A Position-In Favor**

My name is Micah Olson. I am an attorney at Protection and Advocacy. I am speaking in favor of Senate Bill No. 2191, a bill to include physical therapists as health care professionals who can sign statements for applications for mobility-impaired parking certificates.

This bill will streamline and simplify the process for individuals to receive parking placards. This would be particularly beneficial to individuals who are receiving physical therapy but are unable to immediately see a doctor, which may be due to scheduling issues or the distance to see a doctor for those who live in rural areas.

Being able to receive parking placards quickly will assist those who need them because they will be able to park closer to the entrance of buildings, which will allow people to do activities more easily and safely. Walking long distances can be difficult, and even hazardous, for disabled individuals. This is particularly a concern in the winter because of ice.

I support a Do Pass recommendation.



March 1, 2023

CHAIRMAN WEISZ AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES  
COMMITTEE:

Good afternoon. My name is Chris Kraemer. I am a private practice owner and physical therapist practicing in Fargo, ND. I am testifying on my own behalf and as a member of the American Physical Therapy Association – ND branch in support of SB 2191. This bill would add physical therapists to a list of health care professionals who can sign statements for applications for handicapped parking permits.

I have practiced in outpatient orthopedic settings for twenty-five years in North Dakota. During that time, many of my patients have needed handicapped parking passes and have asked me to sign their permit applications.

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I respectfully request that you give SB 2191 a DO PASS. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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