

Blackburn, Thomas

2910

**From:** ST, PHYSICAL  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 28, 2011 8:35 AM  
**To:** Blackburn, Thomas  
**Cc:** Howell, Sabina  
**Subject:** FW: DO NOT PASS ACT 38

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**From:** Alicia Moran [<mailto:almoran586@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2011 8:15 PM  
**To:** ST, PHYSICAL  
**Subject:** DO NOT PASS ACT 38

To whom it may concern:

I have read the proposed changes to Act 38 for the APTA. I understand that changes are trying to be made that will drastically change the scope of practice for a PTA. I feel enraged that changes such as those are being proposed.

I am a new graduate from Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, PA. Previously, I attended and graduated from Bloomsburg University with a degree in Speech Pathology. I have seen aides and ATC's in action and in no way feel confident that they are able to provide the skilled therapy that PT's and PTA's provide to patients across the United States each and every day. Aides often lack knowledge of different types of devices, levels of assistance, and basic warning signs and symptoms of distress. I cannot tell the number of times I have asked an aide to get me a platform walker for a patient who is min A, and the aide looks at me as if I have spoken in a foreign language. How can I feel confident, let alone a PT feel confident under thier license, that that same aide is qualified to make skilled judgements for a patient whose future of well-being is dependent upon them? PTA's receive in-depth training about signs and symptoms of distress that can go undetected by a "lay" person without such training. In some cases, PTA's will assess a patient and determine underlying factors related to distress before the PT is aware of any such event. Aides have no training in that scope, and ATC's are trained ony in strength training, an important factor in physical therapy rehabilitation, but NOT the ONLY factor. How can I feel confident about seeing a physician without formal education and training to evaluate perhaps a life threatening diagnosis? Some patients we treat have diagnoses that require extensive training and studying to properly handle these patients without putting them at risk for further involvement. I truly feel that patients as well as family members will be outraged if they knew an untrained person was treating thier mother, father, son, daughter, husband, or wife, potentially doing more harm than good. And isn't that the mantra of healthcare, "Do No Harm?" How can we do no harm if we, as a state, are allowing aides, ATC's and other untrained personnel treat these human beings without the right qualification, training, education, experience? The purpose of schooling for PT's and PTA's is to see who REALLY wants to be in that profession. Classes aren't hard just because of the coursework, they are hard to make those worthy of the title "THERAPIST" earn it, and know they are qualified that when the time comes to be presented with a real patient with a real diagnosis, they are confident they know what to do, and what NOT to do. School helps weed out those who are not fit for the position, who cannot handle the complexities of this field, who cannot handle the mental and emotional stress that can sometimes accompany our treatment session. Do we put teachers in our schools who have no degree in education? Do we allow lawyers to practice without knowledge of the judicial system? Do we allow real estate agents sell houses/estates that are not qualified to sell, based on the fact that since they live in a house, they must know how to sell one? Do we allow pharmacists to work behind the counter, dividing pills and medicines to those very sick, without knowlegde of which medicine does what? The answer to the above mentioned is NO. So why let an aide or untrained person provide physical therapy services to those who depend on us, the trained PT's and PTA's, to regain independence, return to a normal lifestyle, to learn to walk again, to learn to care for

themselves again. These aren't just the PTA's and PT's futures we are jeopardizing here, we are also greatly jeopardizing our PATIENT's future. PLEASE, DO NOT PASS THIS ACT. WE HAVE WORKED TOO LONG AND HARD TO MAKE THE PTA OBSOLETE.