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A Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association

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Stephen C.F. McDavitt, PT, DPT, MS, FAAOMPT
President
APTA Orthopaedic Section
2920 East Ave S Ste 200
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Dr. McDavitt,

This report is our final advocacy grant update to the Orthopaedic Section regarding our chapter's 2015 legislative efforts. As mentioned in our mid-year report, our grant award was used to fund our annual Legislative Impact Day in 2015 and for our contract lobbyist.

Our 2016 legislative session activities are well underway. We were successful in achieving many of the insurance reform measures we sought during the 2015 legislative session but the provision that would have specified that an insurance copay for rehabilitation could be no higher than one for a primary care visit did not survive. As a result, we will introduce legislation in 2016 that will address the copay issue only. We will again work with a coalition of providers including OTs, SLPs and chiropractors to achieve this legislative goal.

In 2016, we will also introduce a bill that will specify that dry needling is in the scope of practice for physical therapists in Washington. We have held conversations and gained support from key legislators. Despite our best efforts, we were not able to have a productive conversation with opposing stakeholders on the dry needling issue.

Besides working to finalize the details of our bills and to garner legislator support, we've prepared for our annual lobby day, which will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 in Olympia. Registrations are about three times greater than they were last year at this time so we're expecting a crowd of about 300-400 attendees. We've reinstated motor coach transportation to Olympia from Spokane and Seattle primarily to provide safe and affordable transportation for students to participate in this activity.

Thank you for the grant to support our legislative efforts in 2015 – and 2016! Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Schoenfeld, PT, DPT, OMT
PTWA Vice President
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