



## Testimony in Support of

**LD 2057:** An Act to Require the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the Board of Examiner in Physical Therapy to Obtain Fingerprint-based Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Checks for Applicants for Licensure

HCIFS Committee, January 9, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and Honorable Members of the HCIFS Committee:

My name is Gwen Simons. I am the lobbyist for the Maine Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association ("MEAPTA"). I am a physical therapist myself and a healthcare lawyer in Scarborough. The Maine APTA represents over 2500 physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapist assistants (PTAs) in Maine.

Legislation was passed last year (LD 1749) for Maine to become a PT Compact state. That legislation requires FBI fingerprinting and background checks for all initial licensure applicants. LD 2057 establishes those FBI approved procedures that are required for Maine to become a member of the PT Compact.

We only have one friendly amendment to the bill that is a technical correction. On page 1, line 6, it should read "physical therapist assistant" instead of "physical therapy assistant."

Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2057 with this technical amendment.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwen Simons, Esq. PT, OCS, FAAOMPT".

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