Points to Focus on Regarding 9% Medicare Cut:

* Impact on Current Students – especially those who are in clinicals or will be next year
* Impact on Incoming Students
* Impact on DPT School Program

Sample Letter/E-Mail from School/Educator Background

As a full time PT educator (the Director of Clinical Education at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program), the 9% Medicare cut by CMS that will go into effect on January 1, 2021 would create a huge barrier to the education of physical therapy doctoral students in the state of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I have already heard from our clinical partners, who agree to host students for mentorship during their DPT training for clinical experiences, that if this cut goes through, they will need to end or significantly slash their PT student programs. Because this cut would mean the need to cut PT staff or in some instances close their doors, they would no longer be able to host students for their internships due to no longer having the resources to support student learning. Finding clinical sites willing to host and educate our DPT students is already difficult because of dwindling health care resources. This is not something I merely fear, but I have been contacted by clinical partner hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other clinical organizations that they are agreeing to host students for internships next year based on these cuts NOT going through, because they do not think they will have sufficient staff to support their student programs if the cuts are approved.

Students are not allowed to treat patients without the direct supervision of a licensed PT 100% of the time because of other Medicare policies. Because these cuts would cause sites to need to lay off PTs, student programs would be cut or eliminated, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would not be able to graduate its physical therapy students. Because accreditation standards require that students attain 30 weeks of full time clinical practice supervised by licensed PTs in order for them to graduate, this means my students would not be able to meet their graduation requirements.

**The detrimental impacts to Physical Therapy doctoral student education that this cut would have is, of course, additional to my considerable concerns of what this would mean for *patient* access to PT services. Because I anticipate you will hear many stories about those impacts, I want to focus on the impact this would have on training the next generation of physical therapists.**

Please discuss this issue with House and Senate relevant party and committee leadership to include H.R. 8702 that provides a 2 year fix to this problem during the pandemic in any moving legislative vehicle during the lame duck session. Your constituents are relying on your leadership during this difficult time. Thank you for your consideration.