



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **VanderMeer’s Physical Therapy Legislation Passes During Assembly Floor Session**

**Madison** – Today, during a floor session of the State Assembly, [Assembly Bill 581](#), authored by Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) that will allow the Physical Therapy Examining Board (PTEB) to align Student Physical Therapy Assistant supervisory standards with national association guidelines and industry-wide practical standards, was passed.

Representative VanderMeer released the following statement:

“I’m very pleased that my colleagues voted to support this legislation today. This legislation isn’t something that will make statewide headlines, but it’s something that will make an impact close to home, and that’s vitally important.

“Shari Berry, a Tomah resident, Program Head of Western Technical College’s Physical Therapy Assistant Program, a member of the Physical Therapy Examining Board, and a member of the statewide Physical Therapy Association brought this to my attention about two and a half years ago. Basically, after an extensive degree of deliberation, the Physical Therapy Examining Board received a legal opinion that they don’t have statutory authority to align Student Physical Therapy Assistant supervisory requirements with practical industry standards and needed the authority to tweak their rules to address Student Physical Therapy Assistants and how they’re able to assist Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants.

“We had a chance to hear from Western Technical College students during the Senate public hearing on the bill and how this legislation would allow them to better be able to deliver care and also complete their educational requirements. This legislation will help students better participate in healthcare delivery close to home and will also help to keep the professional pipeline open to develop local physical therapy professionals moving forward.”

The bills companion legislation, [Senate Bill 546](#), authored by Senator Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point), passed out of the Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations last week with a 5-0 vote and is available for scheduling for a floor vote in the State Senate.

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.*