

Are you trained to recognize the bone tumor in this lower back?



We're the New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons. We have a point of view on Senate Bill S 3169 and Assembly Bill A 5622 — the Physical Therapists' Access Bills. If passed, these bills would allow physical therapists to see patients directly, without a referral from a medical doctor.

We're against these bills.

One argument dominates our thinking, defines our position, and trumps the opposing view.

Patient Safety

When a patient goes to a physical therapist, the goal is to receive treatment, not a diagnosis.

When a patient sees a medical doctor, the goal is to get a diagnosis, followed by a decision about the best treatment — drawing from the full spectrum of medical knowledge. This treatment could include physical therapy.

Physical therapists aren't trained to make a medical diagnosis or recognize many potentially life-threatening conditions beyond their limited expertise. MDs are.

MDs and physical therapists are part of the world's best health care system. MDs study for at least eight years to

fully understand health problems, their causes, and their symptoms.

Doctors will continue to prescribe physical therapy to patients who can benefit from this kind of treatment. But a patient with a health problem needs to be seen by a doctor first, *before* any treatment, including physical therapy, is prescribed.

Back pain — or any kind of pain — can mean many things. When it's your pain, you want to know what's causing it and how you can fix it. As soon, as safely, and as effectively as possible.

Neither is a physical therapist.

The New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons recommends voting against S.3169 and A.5622, and continuing with the more medically responsible

physician referral system currently in place. It's our position that S.3169 and A.5622 threaten the quality and integrity of our health care system, and the patient safety measures that guide it.

If you agree with us, call Senate Majority Leader Bruno at 518-455-3191, and Assembly Speaker Silver at 518-455-3791. Ask them to protect New York patients by opposing S.3169 and A.5622.