

TO

Comissão Parlamentar de Trabalho e Segurança Social, Assembleia da República
Palácio de São Bento
Lisboa - Portugal

I am writing to you in support of Ordem dos Fisioterapeutas. As an Australian physiotherapist I understand the importance of this vital issue.

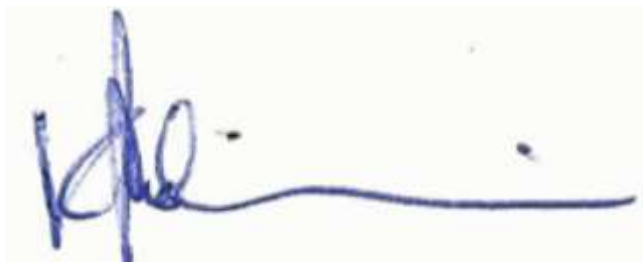
Physiotherapists are a highly educated section of the health care community. Physiotherapists are educated in patient assessment and evaluation and have skills and knowledge to identify those patients who as are appropriately and safely treated with physiotherapy interventions. Physiotherapists also have the knowledge and skills to identify those patients who are better managed by a medical practitioner or a different health care provider.

Therefore physiotherapists with autonomy are valued members of the health care provider network as they are able to reduce health care costs of patient care and streamline the care of patients. In Australia, th experience is that with autonomy for physiotherapists, the cost of health care to our government has been significantly reduced.

I am the director of Manual Concepts (<http://www.manualconcepts.com>), a company that provide high level health education to physiotherapists and medical practitioners. We have had several Portugese physiotherapists on our courses over many years. I am very impressed with the level of knowledge and skills that the Portuguese physiotherapists possess. They are hard workers and extremely diligent and committed to elevating the level and recognition for the physiotherapy profession in Portugal. Also as an Adjunct Senior Teaching Fellow at Curtin University and a Senior Teaching Fellow at the University of Western Australia, I have a full understanding of the high level of academic and clinical competency of physiotherapists in Portugal.

I would strongly recommend that the Comissão Parlamentar de Trabalho e Segurança Social, Assembleia da República, moves to grant autonomy for physiotherapists in Portugal.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kim Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Kim Robinson FACP

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