

Community ...

Bill Extending Physical Therapy Opportunities Passes the Senate

Senator Robach announced June 24 that Senate Bill S.8087, which extends the expiration date for previously passed legislation that provides for broader availability of physical therapy has passed the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature into law. Specifically, the bill would extend the demonstration program that allows nursing homes that also provide a variety of community based care to provide home based physician, nurse practitioner and physician assistant services to elderly patients.

For example, under this legislation, a resident at the Jewish Home of Rochester will not face the requirement of undergoing physical therapy within a complex that may not have the needs that their recovery requires. The patient will now



Senator Joe Robach

have the ability to attend a community center, much like the Jewish Community Center, which has the requisite equipment for recovery, and undertake their physical therapy without increasing the cost of their senior living center.

Dan Katz, president and CEO of Jewish Senior Life said "We are so pleased that the physician house calls community practice was approved again and we can continue to serve those frail elderly that have difficulty getting to their physician's office for needed medical care. Every person is entitled to quality medical care, including those that are homebound and most in need. We are glad that our legislators recognize and support this need in our community."

Robach added, "The intent of my bill was to continue to give exceptional facilities like the Jewish Home right here in Brighton the opportunity to provide for the healthcare needs of our residents. I am grateful that my colleagues in the legislature gave it their unanimous support." ★