

ADVANCED PHYSICAL THERAPY LLC

ORTHOPEDICS - SPINE - SPORTS MEDICINE

3/6/2013

Dear Esteemed Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

I am writing in support of bill 6546 that will limit out of pocket copay expense for physical therapy. I own a physical therapy practice in Wolcott, Connecticut and over the past 10 years have seen copays steadily go up and reimbursement go down. I agree that copays are a good way of making patients responsible for part of their healthcare cost, however many people have copays that are more than half of what the physical therapy visit actually costs. This is because physical therapy visits are considered "specialist visits" under most insurance plans but are not reimbursed nearly as high as a visit to a surgeon.

Bill 6546 will help keep copays for physical therapy less than or equal to the copay that a patient has for the general, primary care physician. There are many advantages to this for everyone. First, patients will be able to better afford physical therapy care. Many patients need to come to physical therapy 2-3 times per week for 4-6 weeks in order to achieve the desired outcome. High copays for this service force many people to cut back on the number of physical therapy visits. This has an adverse effect on overall outcomes from physical therapy. Secondly, if patients can better afford physical therapy, they will use our services more regularly in order to avoid other more costly services down the road. A study published in the journal Health Services Research in September, 2011, found that patients who had direct access to physical therapy services resulted in a lower overall cost to the medical system.

Please vote to support this bill and help your constituents afford the physical therapy care that they are prescribed.

Sincerely,

David M. Donnelly, PT, CSCS

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