

Andrew J. Nelson, M.D.  
The Hand to Shoulder Center  
1320 West Main Street  
Building 2  
Waterbury, CT 06708

FTR

Date: March 6, 2014

Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Raised Bill No. 5249

AN ACT CONCERNING COPAYMENTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES.

Dear Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am a Hand Surgeon in partnership with another Hand Surgeon. As Hand Surgeons we rely heavily on our Hand Therapists to care for our patients for both surgical and non-surgical issues. Simply stated, many patients will not get better or reach their potential without therapy. Large co-pays are a significant obstacle for patients being able to initiate or complete their treatment and therapy.

I am requesting that the committee pass raised Bill No. 5249 which would be an extension of last year's Public Act No. 13-307 (House Bill 6546), which similarly limited the co-payments for physical therapy services.

I unfortunately can now personally relate to the benefit of therapy. I recently sustained a severe skiing accident, which required surgery on my pelvis as well as dislocating my shoulder with a partial rotator cuff tear. I am weak and stiff and not yet returned to work. As a physician, I am better able to navigate this world and favors are given to me where they are not given to everyday patients. My therapy will likely take 4-6 months. If I were to attend therapy 2-3 times per week, even at \$30 per session, this would be prohibitive to just about anyone. Their recovery would be slowed or halted and their ability to return to work and be a productive employee, head of household and taxpayer would be limited.

**I urge you to support this legislation as this will help patients in their time of need, when they are most vulnerable, to begin to rebuild their lives.**

Thank you for your time. I am available to answer any questions they might have.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Nelson, MD

Cell Phone: 203-232-3066

E-mail: [Handmender@wtbyhand.com](mailto:Handmender@wtbyhand.com)