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Deanna Proulx-Sepelak, MHA, OTR/L
24 Bayberry Road
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February 23rd, 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:

My name is Deanna Proulx-Sepelak and I write to request your support of Bill No. 5249 as an extension of last year's Public Act No. 13-307 (House Bill 6546). This bill, passed during the last legislative session, limited the co-payments for physical therapy (PT) services. As an occupational therapist and professor of Occupational Therapy (OT) at Quinnipiac University, I ask that you lend your attention to equity among the delivery of rehabilitation services (including both PT and OT) to our constituents here in Connecticut.

I am also the elected Connecticut State Representative to our national association, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). In this role, I work diligently and aggressively to advocate on behalf of our profession and the unique benefits our services lend to patients. The passage of Public Act No. 13-307 served to limit co-payments for the provision of physical therapy services alone. Yet at current our state's position on Essential Health Benefits, as required by the Affordable Care Act, state that coverage in "rehabilitation and habilitation" be limited to "40 visits *shared* among PT, (and) OT...". Public Act No. 13-307 therefore, potentially limits a patient's access to comprehensive rehabilitative services (inclusive of OT) as a simple matter of simple cost-saving strategy and reimbursement incentives versus medical\health necessity. Your support of Bill No. 5249 is necessary to restore equity among rehabilitative and habilitative service provision and ensure that your constituents receive the comprehensive essential health benefits they are entitled to as residents of Connecticut.

I plea for your attention and support of this important piece of legislation. Thank you for your time with regard to this matter and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have; I can be reached at 203-582-8675 or by email: Deanna.proulx@quinnipiac.edu.

Sincerely,

Deanna Proulx-Sepelak, MHA, OTR/L

Connecticut State Representative to the Representative Assembly of the AOTA
Associate Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy, Quinnipiac University