

FTR

Lisa M. Cyr, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
381 West Woods Road  
Hamden, CT 06518

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:

My Name is Lisa Cyr and I have been an occupational therapist for 26 years. I am currently employed by Coastal Orthopaedics where I work as a Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) and treat patients who suffer orthopedic injuries to their arms/ hands. I'm writing to request that you 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.

Hand therapy is a sub specialty of both occupational therapy and physical therapy. One must be licensed in one of these fields for at least 5 years and have trained at least 4000 hours working with patients with upper extremity injuries before he/she can sit for a rigorous national exam. Once we pass the exam, we earn the right to use the CHT credentials. This designation alone signifies expertise in the treatment of patients with upper extremity disorders. Patients who see a PT CHT or an OT CHT will receive the same care and level of expertise, and should be entitled to the same capped co-pay.

I currently have a young college student who was referred to me after lacerating one of her finger flexor tendons. She is going to school and working part time and cannot afford the \$75 co-pay 3x/ week as prescribed by her physician, so she is only able to attend OT 1x/ wk. Please support a capped co-pay; Raised Bill No. 5249, so patients like this can receive the care they need and deserve to maximize their function.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Cyr, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
Cell Phone: (203) 376-2223 E-mail: Lisacyr.cht@gmail.com