

FTR

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

H.B. 5249: Support

Testimony

My name is Melissa Hancock, I am second year law student at Western New England University School of Law, and an intern with Statehouse Associates. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 5249.

I attended a private institution for four years in Connecticut, where I received my bachelor's degrees in History and Political Science. During my time I was a Division I field hockey player. During competition I received a blow to my head and suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury. It would be a long road to recovery for me, filled with endless doctor visits, medical bills, and hefty co-pays.

At the time of my injury I was still fortunate to be under my parents health insurance plan. A plan that only required a \$30 dollar co-payment at doctors visits. However, some of my other classmates often expressed to me that I was lucky because their health insurance co-pays were \$50 dollars at each visit, and sometimes more.

Following my injury I had to go to several neurology appointments several times a week tapering off to once a month over time. At each of these visits I was required to pay the \$30 co-pay. Not only was I regularly going to neurology appointments but I was also required to see an Occupational Therapist. After my injury I needed help learning how to write and read, something that I have over time been able to do. Although I am thankful for the care that I received in Connecticut, if it had not been for my parents I would not have even been able to afford to go to the Occupational Therapist. Some weeks I was paying \$300 dollars a week in co-pays, and this was with the \$30 dollar co-pay.

Although I was fortunate to be under my parent's health insurance, as a young person and a student I urge you to support House Bill 5249. I urge you to help the young people and the students of Connecticut to be able to afford the Occupational Care that they need. Unlike going to get a once a year physical or get checked for a cold, Occupational Therapy takes time and several visits, sometimes several visits within just one week. These visits cost hundreds, and for me thousands of dollars, I urge you to support this bill in the hope that we can make Occupational Therapy affordable for everyone in Connecticut.

- Melissa Hancock
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