

FTR

Pam Wilson, OTR/L, CHT

20 Old Common Rd.

Wethersfield, CT 06109

March, 3, 2014

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Legislative Office Building

300 Capitol Ave.

Hartford, CT 06106

RE: 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 an occupational therapist, specializing in Hand Therapy (Certified Hand Therapist) at The Hand Center in Glastonbury, CT. I am requesting that you pass Raised Bill no. 5249 which would be an extension of last year's Public Act No. 13-307 (House Bill 6546).

Our facility has both and occupational and physical therapists. Both of these groups of professionals have also been certified in the specialty of Hand Therapy. A Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) is an occupational or physical therapist who has a minimum of five years of clinical experience, including 4000 hours or more in direct practice in hand therapy. In addition, the Certified Hand Therapist has successfully passed a comprehensive test of advanced clinical skills and theory in upper quarter rehabilitation. Nationally, 86% of hand therapists are occupational therapists and 14% are physical therapists. In our clinic, 5 of our therapists are occupational therapists, and only 1 is a physical therapist. It is not in the best interest of our patients to have co-pays limited for only 1 of our 6 highly qualified therapists.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and ask your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Pam Wilson