

February 8, 2026
Kyle Anderson, PT, OCS, MBA
285 Promenade St
Providence, RI 02908

In support of HB7429

Dear Chairperson Donovan and the HHS Committee

My name is Kyle Anderson, I am a physical therapist and serve as the Vice President of Finance for Orthopedics RI. Ortho RI performs 70 thousand patient visits per year across the state of Rhode Island. The current structure of health care, specifically copayments, has detrimentally impacted physical therapy patient care, patient accessibility, and quality patient outcomes. The skilled interventions performed by physical therapists are critical to the orthopedic health of our growing population. The physical therapist's ability to provide these services is increasingly disrupted due to costs associated with treatment. The cost of copayments has replaced medical necessity as the gate keeper to quality care. This financial burden limits the frequency, and/or prohibits the attendance of physical therapy thereby slowing recovery times and increasing the likelihood of more costly medical interventions.

Physical therapy patient, Bob Lancia states, "The cost of copayments places stress on my ability to attend physical therapy. As an active person who recently required extensive shoulder reconstruction, physical therapy was an unavoidable necessity. High copayments make it a challenge for patients to attend treatment at the frequency recommended by their physical therapist and physician."

Dr Anthony Deluise, orthopedic surgeon, speaks in support of his patients receiving a full course of consistent treatment: "My patient's successful recovery is dependent on them receiving a comprehensive physical therapy treatment plan. The cost of treatment, specifically copayments, creates obstacles to their outcomes by decreasing their ability to attend and receive skilled therapy."

The increased cost of copayments due to physical therapists' classification as a 'specialist' creates undo hardships for those receiving care. Copay reform for PT service will allow improved accessibility, patient outcomes, and cost-effective treatment to those with musculoskeletal disorders.

Sincerely,

Kyle Anderson, PT, OCS, MBA
KAnderson@orthopedicsri.com
401.777.7000 x1144