



Representative Jeff LaRe
77th House District

House Bill 547 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Brinkman, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Boggs, and members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 547. This piece of legislation seeks to place cost-sharing requirement restrictions on occupational and physical therapy services.

Cost sharing is an out-of-pocket expense (i.e. copayment, coinsurance, deductible) made by an individual for occupational and physical therapy services. Typically, the out-of-pocket expense for this type of therapy falls into the specialist category. House Bill 547 would prohibit the cost sharing requirement for these services to not be greater than the cost sharing requirement for services provided by an individual's primary care physician.

By capping the cost sharing requirement of occupational and physical therapy services to that of the services provided by an individual's primary care physician, the cost factor would be removed in choosing between therapy services or prescription opioids in treating pain management. By allowing therapy to be a more affordable option, my hope is this will decrease the amount of individuals who are prescribed opioids, and thus is one means of addressing the opioid epidemic.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 547. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee has at this time.