



**Representative Jeff LaRe**  
**77<sup>th</sup> House District**

**House Bill 460 Sponsor Testimony**

Chairman Brinkman, Vice-Chair Lampton, Ranking Member Miranda, and members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 460. 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 460 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. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen an increase in reported opioid overdoses and fatalities, further compounding the complexities of the opioid epidemic.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 460. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.