



TO: Chairman Thomas E. Brinkman Jr.

March 8, 2022

RE: Support – HB 460: Restrict occupational, physical therapy cost sharing requirements

Dear Chairman Brinkman,

On behalf of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), and in collaboration with the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association, I am writing to express our support for HB 460, which would align the amount of a copay charged to a patient for an occupational therapy visit or physical therapy visit to the amount charged for an outpatient office visit.

AOTA is the national professional association representing the interests of more than 213,000 occupational therapists, students of occupational therapy, and occupational therapy assistants – more than 2,680 of which live in the state of Ohio. The practice of occupational therapy is science-driven, evidence-based, and enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by promoting health and addressing the functional effects of illness, injury, and disability.

HB 460 would prohibit a health benefit plan from imposing cost sharing for occupational or physical therapy services that is greater than the cost sharing for an office visit to a primary care physician or primary osteopath physician. This legislation is an important step toward protecting clients from rapidly rising health care costs. Reducing copays for occupational therapy and physical therapy can lower barriers to care and encourage more patients to seek these services.

Many health plans classify occupational therapy as a “specialty” which requires patients to pay a much higher copay. Multiple visits are often required for occupational therapy or physical therapy treatments; therefore, copays can add up quickly, potentially creating financial hardship for patients and discouraging them from continuing their treatments. Patients who do not continue their treatments are at a higher risk for reinjury or another adverse health event. Furthermore, if the reimbursement rates for the service are the same or less than the cost sharing imposed on patients, then the patients can end up paying most of the cost of a visit with the actual therapy benefit being minimal.

We ask you to support HB 460 to encourage Ohioans to have more access to rehabilitation services to allow them to lead productive lives. Please contact me at (301) 652-6611 x1921 or via email at mpudeler@aota.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Meghan Pudeler'.

Meghan Pudeler
Manager, State Affairs
American Occupational Therapy Association

CC: Ohio Occupational Therapy Association