

March 26, 2025

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
househealthandhumanservices@rilegislature.gov

Re: Testimony OPPOSING House Bill 5082 AS WRITTEN

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony regarding HB 5082

When my husband was living with Multiple Sclerosis and mild to moderate dementia from Alzheimer's Disease, I regularly brought him to physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy to help him retain the abilities he still had, and attempt to regain some of what he had lost.

If the co-pay for his physical therapy were lower than that for his other therapies, while I would have been glad to keep that little bit of extra cash, I think it would likely have made me reconsider the value of the services he was getting, and I'm certain that people with more limited resources would be likely to opt for the less expensive type of therapy and forego those with higher co-pays. The three types of therapy worked synergistically for my husband, as they do for many patients, and eliminating any would have been detrimental to the other forms of treatment, as well.

I would wholeheartedly support this bill if it included the other rehabilitative therapies: occupational therapy and speech therapy, and hope that you will consider amending HB 5082 thusly.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,