Dear Representative/Senator (delete as applicable) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (list specialty) in Rhode Island with over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years of experience. I am writing in support of **H 7081/S 2544**, which would limit copays, coinsurance or office deductibles for services of a physical therapist to an amount not to exceed the cost of a primary care visit.

Physical therapists are well trained to assess soft issue injuries, movement disorders, muscle weakness, and so much more, but over the last 5 years, copays for rehabilitation services have quickly climbed from $8 - $15 to an alarming $30-$75+ per session. Because physical therapy may require visits over several weeks, a high copay can result in hundreds of dollars or more in out of pocket expenses. This can be cost prohibitive for many already economically burdened patients, who may turn to opioids as a quicker, cheaper form of pain relief.

I depend on physical therapists to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that I can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but if patients cannot afford their copayments, these effective services have been removed as an option.

A recent Health Services Research study has indicated that patients with lower back pain, who received care from a PT first, experienced lower out-of-pocket, pharmacy, and outpatient costs after 1 year and reduced their likelihood of receiving an opioid prescription by 87% compared with patients who never visited a PT. This drop in opioid prescriptions is especially relevant considering the current national push for non-pharmacological methods to treat pain.

Physical therapists address the mobility needs of thousands of Rhode Island patients each year. **H 7081/S 2544** would ensure patient access to efficient, evidence-based physical therapy for their musculoskeletal conditions.

Sincerely,