

Senate Banking and Insurance Committee

Senator Donald C. White, Chair

Senate Bill 594, Printer's No. 1943

May 6, 2014

Testimony of Jennifer Woods

I respectfully ask that you allow this letter to serve as my written testimony regarding Senate Bill 594, Printer's No. 1943 (SB 594) and include this letter as part of the official hearing record. For the reasons set forth below I strongly support SB 594.

My name is Jennifer Woods and I have traveled here today from Lock Haven, Pennsylvania to testify in favor of Senate Bill 594. I have been under the care of a licensed Occupational Therapist after surgery on my left forearm and wrist. On February 22, 2014, I was involved in a life changing accident at my home. Since the accident, I have lost the use of my left hand and have been unable to work due to my extensive injury. After a period of recovery time to allow healing of certain surgical procedures, I was prescribed Occupational Therapy by my surgeons, (3, because of the severity of the surgery). Occupational Therapy was prescribed two (2) times a week. Due to the high cost and frequency of my co-pays, I am unable to attend my rehabilitation two (2) times a week; I have to limit this treatment to once a week. My recovery from this point on in my injury is dependent upon my rehabilitation in Occupational Therapy and the benefit the therapy gives me. At this point, Occupational Therapy at this point, is the most important part of my recovery. I cannot work now and have no income for myself. My job is driving a truck. We are stretching my husband's income as far as we can to pay the bills, but there is no room for any more co-pays. I also have to pay co-pays to my 3 surgeons for follow-up appointments and continue to pay my employer for my health care coverage. Something needs to be done for people like me in this position with this type of injury and the high cost and amounts of co-pays being charged by the insurance company. The high cost of these co-pays creates a barrier for me to access these services that I need very badly to regain full use of my hand. My recovery, because of the high cost of these co-pays and my difficulty in paying them, has been very slow with no ability to begin working again at this time.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly support SB 594. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Woods