

## **HB 625 by Rep. Cody Harris Fair Co-Pay**

- In 2019 the Legislature passed Direct Access to allow patients to see their Physical Therapist without a referral from another healthcare provider.
- HB 625 requires that healthcare plans not charge more for a visit to a Physical Therapist than they do for a visit to a Physician's office.

### **Reduces the Cost of Healthcare for the Patient**

- Currently Physical Therapists are considered "Specialists" for insurance purposes because in the past a patient had to be referred to the Physical Therapist.
- Since patients can now go directly to their Physical Therapist without having to schedule an office visit and meet the co-pay of another healthcare provider, the Physical Therapist is now often their primary entry point to healthcare.
- Co-pay costs are often a barrier for patients to get the care they need.
- By reducing the co-pay to that equal of a primary care physician, often about half the cost of a specialist, it will reduce the out-of-pocket expenses of the patient.

### **Better Outcomes for Patients**

- By reducing the cost of the co-pay it decreases the financial barrier many patients have in seeking the proper care.
- If the co-pay is reduced patients are more likely to complete their course of treatment and, therefore, more likely to have a more successful outcome.

## **HB 625 Reduces the Cost of Healthcare for Patients and Provides for Better Healthcare Outcomes!**