

**Testimony In Support of House Bill 367**  
**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Dr. Roy Film. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 367.

I am an orthopaedic physical therapist with 30 years of experience, a resident of Catonsville, and former owner of a private PT practice in Ellicott City. I am the current President of APTA Maryland and I'm an assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. My research focuses on access to non-pharmacological pain management, such as PT, and how it mitigates prescription opioid addiction.

The 2022 study commissioned during a previous attempt at passing similar legislation in Maryland examined only the direct costs of the legislation and did not include a cost-avoidance analysis. By assuming zero downstream savings, it modeled a completely unrealistic fictional scenario.

I have helped many patients avoid scheduled spinal fusion surgery, which typically incurs total costs of \$100,000 to \$150,000. By comparison, my average course of care for LBP was around 10 visits at an average cost about \$150 per session. PT is often far less expensive than elective spine surgery, and it mitigates the associated risk of long-term post-operative disability.

Since 2016, the CDC and the World Health Organization have recommended non-drug therapies, including PT, as first-line treatment for acute and chronic back pain. Thirteen US states have enacted legislation similar to HB 367 without evidence of increased overall insurance costs.

High copays create an artificial barrier that drives people, especially those of lower financial means, away from cost-effective, evidence-based care. They foster more chronic pain, more surgeries, more injections, more opioid use, and more health inequity. Lowering PT copays isn't "cherry picking". It's evidence-based, cost-saving care. And it's time for us to catch up.

On behalf of thousands of physical therapists and Marylanders we serve, I respectfully urge a favorable report. Thank you for your time and consideration.