

Testimony for LD1785

**Testimony in Support of LD 1785**

*Presented by Connor McGehee, PT, DPT, Owner of Gray Physical Therapy*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Perry, and esteemed members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee,

My name is Connor McGehee, and I am a proud Maine native, born and raised in Sanford. I am a graduate of the Husson University Doctor of Physical Therapy program and the current owner of Gray Physical Therapy—an outpatient clinic located in the heart of Gray. We are the only physical therapy clinic serving the towns of Gray, New Gloucester, and Cumberland. Established in 2001, our clinic has served as a pillar of the community for over two decades.

When the previous owner retired, the clinic was at risk of closing—leaving a significant gap in healthcare access for thousands of residents. Without my personal investment and commitment to the community, Gray would have lost its only local physical therapy provider. I took on that responsibility to preserve this vital resource, and since taking ownership, I have worked diligently to expand the clinic's reach and capacity. What began as a one-provider practice has grown to include two full-time physical therapists and one physical therapist assistant.

The power imbalance between healthcare providers and insurance companies significantly impacts small practices like mine. Insurance companies routinely adjust reimbursement rates without negotiation, often paying only a fraction of our billed charges. For example, if our clinic bills \$200 for services, insurers can—and often do—pay far less, regardless of the cost and value of care provided. This undermines our sustainability and limits our ability to hire additional staff to meet growing patient needs.

Furthermore, the physical therapy profession has raised the standard of entry to a doctoral level in 2016, increasing both the cost and length of education. This economic disparity discourages new graduates from entering outpatient settings—especially in rural areas—further exacerbating access issues for Maine residents.

LD 1785 is a necessary step toward ensuring fairness, transparency, and sustainability in reimbursement practices. It supports clinics like mine, so we can continue providing essential care to Maine residents and keep our communities healthy, mobile, and independent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Connor McGehee, PT, DPT**

Owner, Gray Physical Therapy  
Gray, Maine

Connor McGehee  
Gray Physical Therapy  
LD 1785

Testimony provided in document uploaded.