Keep clinics open by protecting health care providers from unfair contracting practices:

HB 1589 (Bronoske, Macri, Shavers, Pollet, Reed) and SB 5588 (Cleveland, Nobles, Short)

HB 1589 and SB 5588 level the playing field for health care providers to negotiate fair contracts with health insurers. These bills are a key step to ensure that patients can access physical therapy services from independent private practices.

Physical Therapists provide care to patients of all ages and abilities, and in a variety of settings. They help people rehabilitate from devastating injuries, manage chronic conditions, avoid surgery, and avoid the use of opioid pain medications.

However, the practice of physical therapy is facing serious challenges.

In the last four years:

- PT practices have seen a 42% increase in costs
- PT practices have seen a 15% decrease in reimbursement
- 33% of PT clinics are operating in the red
- 21% of PTs left the workforce since 2021

Unfortunately, physical therapists are unable to negotiate their reimbursement with insurers and are stuck with a take-it-or-leave-it contract.

APTA Washington joins a large coalition of health care providers in supporting HB 1589 and SB 5588. These bills preserve patients' access to care by requiring insurance companies to negotiate in good faith with health care providers. Good faith means the insurer must:

- Offer a meaningful opportunity to negotiate the terms of the contract
- Provide a contact person for negotiations
- Indicate how the contract is different from the previous contract
- Share an easily accessible proposed fee schedule

HB 1589 and SB 5588 also prohibit:

- Requiring providers to take discounts that are not part of the original contract
- Take-it-or-leave-it clauses

Please support HB 1589 and SB 5588 to ensure patients can continue to access necessary and cost-effective physical therapy treatment.

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