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Date: Apr 24, 2023 at 12:26:11
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SB- 797 testimony

Good Afternoon MR chair and distinguished members of the committee: My name is Erica Korpi and I am here to testify in support of SB - 797.

I identify as a white, female with she/her pronouns. I am wearing *clothing description* and I have brown hair. What you don't see on camera today is that I am a right below the knee amputee. I have been an amputee since I was 22 years old when I had a tragic motorcycle accident that resulted in the amputation of my leg. I was fortunate to survive, after 4 surgeries and over 9 months of healing I was able to start walking again, 2 weeks later I ran on my first running prosthetic thanks to a challenged athletes foundation grant.

I have always been a multi sport athlete but Running is freedom to me. Will I ever run again was the first question I asked the prosthetist while in the hospital. He told me it would be impossible to have insurance cover a prosthetic foot that would be designated for running, my only option would be a grant. At that time I thought the only troubles I would have with insurance would be related to physical movement prosthetics, would I be wrong.

I am 5ft 9in and I've never had a short leg problem, till becoming an amputee.

Because my limb is so short and bony

my doctor and prosthetist worked together to come up with the best prosthetic system for my situation. That included an elevated vacuum to provide suspension to keep my leg on. All other systems would either cause increased injury on my scarring or because of my high activity level would increase my risk for sores and skin breakdown.

Lo and behold my insurance provider through my employer deems that specific code L5781 for that vacuum system to be "experimental" and not "helpful" for my situation, although this vacuum system is commonly covered technology by Medicare and prescribed by my doctor.

In July of 2022 I found out what the impact to myself and my family would be when

my insurance company didn't cover this part after it broke 6months early. \$5,000. I was really fortunate that my prosthetic provider was willing to absorb that cost. Otherwise our entire savings would have been gone and we would have had to pull our preschooler out of school due to the additional monthly payment.

I am in support of SB-797 because insurance fairness means that insurance companies in Oregon will be held accountable for providing a standard of care at the same level as Medicare. It's time for Oregon to continue to be a leader in healthcare coverage and give the power back to the citizens like myself- a mother and disabled woman , an opportunity to move again!

Thank you,
Erica Korpi