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January 27, 2025

To: The Honorable Chair Deb Patterson  
The Honorable Vice Chair Cedric Hayden  
Senate Committee on Healthcare  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support – SB 549, Eliminate Prior Authorization for Repairs for CRT Equipment**

Dear Chair Patterson and Vice Chair Hayden

National Seating & Mobility (NSM) is a national provider of Complex Rehab Technology (CRT), we provide services to Oregon Medicaid recipients via 3 locations, Portland and Eugene, OR and Vancouver, WA.

CRT products are a specialized and small subset of technology classified within the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) category. These items include medically necessary and individually configured manual and power wheelchairs, seating and positioning systems, and other adaptive equipment such as bathing equipment, standing devices, gait trainers and repairs and maintenance to client owned equipment.

Adequate access to CRT does more than provide function, independence and access to the community. It also plays a critical role in keeping health care costs down for a small and fragile population of children and adults with severe and long-term physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, ALS, multiple sclerosis, spinal bifida, spinal cord or traumatic brain injury.

Access to wheelchair repairs is critical to maintaining the health, safety, and independence of individuals with disabilities. In recent years, consumers have experienced delayed access and fewer provider options when equipment service or repair is needed. As drafted, SB 549 will address the most time-sensitive obstacle that delays patients' getting their equipment repaired quickly, obtaining medical documentation and prior authorization.

NSM supports prior authorization for new equipment and does not want that to change. When providing new equipment Oregon Medicaid or the Coordination Care Organization (CCO) thoroughly reviews medical documentation to determine if equipment is medically necessary. Once the mobility equipment is approved, medical need has been established with life-long need, no further review for service and repair should be required.

In the state of Oregon, it typically takes 14-24 days to obtain prior authorization from CCOs. Removing the prior authorization process would allow suppliers to complete certain repairs the same day the repair evaluation takes place or order repair parts without waiting for approval. In the current outdated model, mobility equipment users are stuck using temporary rental equipment that is not individually configured to their specific needs or they continue to use their own equipment that may not be fully functional but better suited for them while they wait for suppliers to gather medical documentation and submit for prior authorization.

**For these reasons NSM supports SB 549, the elimination of Prior Authorization for repairs for CRT equipment.**

We appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments. It is our desire to collaborate with Oregon Health Authority to produce the best outcomes for the Medicaid program and its recipients with complex needs.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tonya Hammatt".

Tonya Hammatt  
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