

Submitter: Cynthia McConnell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB699

I work in Special Education in the Beaverton School District. Working with children who have special needs particularly due to the need of prosthetic and orthotic devices is tear- jerking especially to watch children learn how to use device or new device as the child has growth spurts. Should parents lose jobs or have their health insurance changed within their current company, and the new insurance company doe not cover prosthetic or orthotic devices, this decreases the child's learning and self-esteem as the child is now embarrassed or loses self-confidence due to having to do without the device. All insurance company should cover these devices which you may not be aware of needing until you or a loved one suddenly requires one.

I also have an adult friend who due to an unfortunate accident lost his right hand. While his company insurance covers a prosthetic device for his use while on the job, the coverage does not extend for his to have the prosthetic device once he leaves the job site. This practice is discriminatory and somewhat cruel in that my friend cannot learn how to become comfortable in using the device for his personal use..

Please consider expanding devices of this nature for all health insurance coverages.