



January 28, 2025

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,

Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection (OSCI) is a community-based nonprofit that serves thousands of wheelchair users who live with life-long physical disabilities. Our mission is to ensure every person with a spinal cord injury has the care, community, and resources they need to thrive.

A well-functioning, well-configured specialized wheelchair (CRT) is the pulse of a healthy life for one who needs it for independence and community living.

And a wheelchair breakdown brings life to a grinding halt, which too often takes weeks to repair. For many on OHP, this requires a prior authorization and letter of medical necessity involving a licensed clinician (PT/OT), an assistive technology provider (ATP) from the CRT supplier, and a review process by Oregon's CCOs. This time-consuming process is unnecessary and redundant because all individuals using OHP-purchased CRT live with life-long physical disabilities and have already gone through this process to receive the CRT in the first place.

As the executive director of Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection representing thousands of Oregonians living with a spinal cord injury, we support SB 549 and the elimination of Prior Authorization for repairs for CRT equipment. This legislation would reduce unnecessary wait times and ease the process of wheelchair repair, keeping our community on a positive health trajectory.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "West Livaudais", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

West Livaudais
Executive Director