

Submitter: Anna Komer, PT, DPT, OCS
Committee: Senate Committee on Healthcare
Measure, Appointment, or Topic: SB699
Date: 01/30/2025
To: Oregon Senate Health Committee
Position: **Support/Favorable**

Dear Senate Healthcare Committee Members,

I am writing to express my full support for measure SB99 as a local physical therapist. My intent is to highlight the critical importance and medical necessity of providing access to recreational prosthetics for individuals with limb loss. While prosthetic devices for basic mobility are often covered, the absence of coverage for recreational prosthetics significantly limits opportunities for physical activity, directly impacting health outcomes, quality of life, and long-term well-being.

The ability to engage in recreational activities is not a luxury—it is a fundamental right, as well as a critical component of health maintenance and disease prevention. Research consistently demonstrates that the most effective means of reducing cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death globally, is through improved fitness. For individuals with amputation, access to fitness is currently severely limited due to the lack of appropriate prosthetic technology designed for sports, exercise, and active recreation. Without access to these specialized devices, individuals with limb loss face significant barriers to maintaining the level of activity necessary for optimal health, increasing their risk for cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, and other comorbidities associated with inactivity.

Furthermore, physical activity is essential for mental and emotional well-being. Individuals with limb loss experience higher rates of depression, anxiety, and social isolation—challenges that are mitigated through participation in sports and exercise. Recreational prosthetics allow users to reintegrate into their communities, regain independence, and experience the psychological benefits associated with movement and engagement in physical activity.

Beyond the individual benefits, access to recreational prosthetics contributes to reducing long-term disability. When individuals with limb loss remain physically active, they preserve musculoskeletal integrity, prevent secondary complications such as joint degeneration and chronic pain, and maintain overall mobility. By supporting an active lifestyle, we can reduce healthcare costs associated with long-term disability, rehabilitation, and preventable medical interventions.

Denying individuals with amputation access to recreational prosthetics is a direct barrier to their health and longevity. We urge policymakers, healthcare providers, and insurers to recognize recreational prosthetics as a medical necessity—not an elective or luxury item—and to provide coverage that ensures equitable access for all individuals with limb loss. In particular, we advocate for the passage of SB699, which would address these critical gaps in access and coverage.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this urgent matter. I welcome the opportunity to collaborate on solutions that prioritize the well-being and inclusion of individuals with limb loss. Please do not hesitate to reach out to discuss how we can work together to make movement accessible for everyone.

Sincerely,

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