

January 30, 2025

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Senate Committee on Health Care

The Honorable Sen. Deb Patterson, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Nels Carlson, and I am Professor of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at the Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine. I am here today to support Senate Bill 699 on behalf of OHSU.

As a rehabilitation physician who has seen patients with disability for over 25 years at OHSU, I see patients every week who have experienced the loss of a limb or a functional limb deficit. It is vital that these patients are able to access the appropriate prosthetic or orthotic device to continue their active lives. While health insurance often covers one device for patients, many do not cover additional devices that support physical activity. The high cost of these devices creates a significant barrier for individuals who are forced to pay out of pocket.

Senate Bill 699 offers an opportunity to reduce those barriers and improve the health and well-being for individuals who have experienced limb loss or limb difference.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge your support for Senate Bill 699.

Sincerely,



Nels Carlson, M.D.
Professor of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation
Oregon Health & Science University