



# Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

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**Date:** May 4, 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 for House Bill 549 – Expanding Timely Access to Complex Rehabilitation Technology**

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon (OTAO), we are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 549. OTAO represents occupational therapy practitioners across Oregon who work every day to help individuals regain and maintain independence, function, and safety in their daily lives. HB 549 will improve access to essential services by recognizing the role of occupational therapists in facilitating access to complex rehabilitation technology (CRT) for individuals with significant physical disabilities.

CRT includes medically necessary, individually configured devices such as power wheelchairs, custom seating systems, specialized controls, and adaptive positioning equipment. These technologies are not standard medical devices—they are tailored solutions that enable people with complex mobility, postural, or neuromuscular impairments to function safely and meaningfully in their homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.

Occupational therapists are uniquely qualified to evaluate, recommend, and coordinate access to CRT. Yet despite our training and clinical expertise, our patients too often face significant delays in obtaining this technology due to restrictive authorization protocols, insurance red tape, and unnecessary administrative barriers. These delays can result in serious harm, including pressure injuries, falls, hospitalizations, and social isolation.

HB 549 would reduce those delays by allowing repairs to be timely and efficient while reducing wait times for equipment that has already been determined as medically necessary. It would help ensure that individuals in critical need—such as but not limited to children with cerebral palsy, adults with spinal cord injuries, or seniors with progressive neuromuscular disorders—receive timely access to the technology they need to live safely and independently.

Timely access to CRT is not optional—it is a lifeline. HB 549 would move Oregon toward a more responsive, person-centered approach to care. OTAO strongly urges the committee to advance this bill and improve the quality of life for thousands of Oregonians with complex medical needs.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to health equity. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can offer additional information or support.

Sincerely yours,

Katie O'Day MOT, OTR/L  
OTAO President  
& OTAO Board of Directors