



House Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care

Testimony in Support of SB 549 A

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AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50+ to choose how they live as they age. AARP Oregon advocates on issues important to our more than 500,000 Oregon members with a focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities.

AARP Oregon is pleased to support SB 549 A. This bill is a complement to SB 550, which would extend the right to repair law to wheelchairs. AARP testified in support of SB 550 which is currently before the House Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee.

Wheelchairs are essential mobility devices for many older adults, providing them with the independence and freedom to live their lives fully. Unfortunately, delays in obtaining repairs can lead to significant hardships, including reduced mobility, diminished ability to perform daily activities and increased risk of injury, including secondary health issues from using a damaged or malfunctioning wheelchair.

By requiring that a determination be made within 72 hours after a request for prior authorization, Oregonians who rely on mobility devices have some level of certainty that they will be able to move forward to secure the necessary repairs they need.

On behalf of AARP Oregon we urge a yes vote on SB 549 A. It's an important step towards ensuring that all Oregonians can maintain their independence and quality of life.