

Statement in Support of Oregon Senate Bill 699 (SB 699)

Good afternoon, esteemed members of the committee. My name is Taylor Wyatt, and I am a Certified Prosthetist and Orthotist practicing in Oregon. I am here today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 699, which seeks to expand health insurance coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices.

As a CPO, I witness firsthand the profound impact that access to appropriate devices has on individuals' lives. These devices are not merely medical tools; they are instruments of independence, dignity, and quality of life. However, many of our patients face significant barriers due to restrictive insurance policies that limit coverage to basic daily use devices. This not only hampers their ability to engage in sport specific activities but also affects their physical and mental well-being.

There have been too many instances in my career where I have had to compromise care for a patient, not being able to provide them with the appropriate device to allow for them to function at their fullest potential.

This bill will address the need to allow those with disability to live fuller lives. Without the need for the financial commitment of family and friends or the need to apply for grants for a sport device, so they too can have equal access to sports and activities as someone with out those disabilities.

SB 699 addresses these challenges by ensuring that health insurance policies cover activity specific prosthetic and orthotic devices deemed medically necessary by healthcare providers. Importantly, it mandates coverage for devices that support physical activities such as running, biking, and swimming, which are essential for the overall health and rehabilitation of individuals with limb loss.

By aligning Oregon's coverage standards with those outlined in, SB 699 we will ensure that the list of covered devices is not more restrictive than federal guidelines. This alignment promotes consistency and fairness in coverage, benefiting both patients and providers. We can be leaders in this space.

As Oregonians we have a legacy of trail blazers in advocacy for athletes,

“If you have a body, you are an athlete.” — **Bill Bowerman**, co-founder of Nike.

Let us be the ones to allow this reality for Oregonians experiencing disability.

In conclusion, SB 699 is a vital step toward improving the lives of Oregonians who rely on prosthetic and orthotic devices. It promotes equity, enhances access to necessary care, and

supports the overall health and well-being of individuals with limb loss. I urge you to support this bill and help create a more inclusive and compassionate healthcare system in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.