

**Testimony Submitted by
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Oregon Consumer Justice
To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care**

May 8, 2025

Regarding: Support for SB 549 A

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Angela Donley. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony today on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of SB 549 A.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

Consumers who rely on complex rehabilitation technology (CRT) should be able to receive timely and affordable repairs to items they own. This access should not be slowed by barriers from uncertain prior authorization timelines or confusion from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and coordinated care organizations (CCOs). Currently, waiting for Medicaid approval can add weeks or even months to the amount of time it takes to repair a mobility device.

Oregonians living with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities are now forced to wait weeks or months for even small CRT repairs. Being confined to bed due to a lack of necessary medical technology creates more health problems and limits a person's ability to care for their own needs. SB 549 A will require OHA and CCOs to respond to a

consumer's prior authorization request for CRT repairs within 72 hours of receiving a request. CRTs covered by this bill include medically necessary mobility devices, such as power wheelchairs, adaptive seating systems, strollers, and standing frames, technology that can only be used by those with a medical need, and technology that can only be serviced by a CRT provider.

A lack of mobility is a lack of freedom. This means that those unable to easily seek repairs for their CRTs lose not only their mobility but also their autonomy. Many repairs are simple but vital, making a lack of timely access to them an unreasonable barrier for Oregon consumers.

We urge your support of SB 549 A so that Oregonians will have access to timely, necessary repairs for their CRTs.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.