

Good afternoon, Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and members of the committee

Hello. I'm Charlotte Nesse. I'm 13 and I was born with congenital limb loss, which has resulted in me having a prosthetic leg for all of my life. I am fortunate, through multiple organizations (Shriners Children's Hospital and Challenged Athletes Foundation), to always have prosthetics available to me as I've grown and needed them, and I am so grateful for this. Living in Portland and being so close to Shriners Children's has been great. They have just started clinics in other parts of the State, which has made it easier for kids not in the Metro area to receive a level of care. However, their main Oregon hospital in Portland sees children travel in from all parts of the Northwest, which I'm sure can be a hassle for those families.

CAF is a great organization that, via a grant system, has provided running blades for me. Without a running blade, or as I like to call it, a cheetah leg, I would be running with what is like a heavy, clunky brick strapped to my leg, so I'm very grateful I can receive the tools to help me be the best I can be. Because I have had access to the legs I need, I have been able to play multiple sports (such as soccer, basketball, and ultimate frisbee), participate in P.E class at school, and go on outdoor adventures with my family and friends. I get to do what any other kid my age gets to do.

I am so lucky to have had legs provided to me over the years, but this will change when I turn 21 and am no longer a patient at Shriners Children's. The future of my prosthesis beyond this age is uncertain and daunting to think about. I will likely be forced to pay for my prosthesis out of pocket, rely on grant money (which isn't a sure thing), or go without one entirely.

I cannot imagine not participating in physical activities and exercise, exploring the Pacific Northwest, or simply engaging in everyday life because my insurance refuses to cover the prosthetic devices necessary for those actions.

Like many patients with similar disabilities, I am unable to afford a new device on my own. I ask you, members of this committee, how would you feel if you didn't have the tools to walk or do any physical activities?

Everyone, including people with limb loss, should be able to live their lives to the fullest and be able to move their bodies in any way they'd like and pursue happiness.

For this reason, I am passionate about ensuring all people who need orthotic and prosthetic devices can receive them when needed. It's tough to obtain a prosthetic if you don't have the money to pay for one, and if that were covered by insurance, it would enable people who need devices to access them easily.

Thank you for listening to me today.