

Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

May 12, 2025

Re: Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 3134

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Committee Members:

My name is Jeremy Hilliard, PT, DPT. I am a licensed physical therapist in Oregon and faculty member in the entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy program at George Fox University. I am also the past president of the Oregon Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA-Oregon) and in this role have had a number of conversations with private practice owners regarding the challenges with prior authorization. I submit this written testimony in strong support of House Bill 3134, which introduces critical reforms to enhance transparency, ensure access to medically necessary care, and streamline prior authorization processes. The challenges posed by bureaucratic barriers like prior authorization delays and denials impact patient outcomes, provider efficiency, and contribute to provider burnout. HB 3134 addresses these issues in three key ways that will strengthen Oregon's healthcare system.

First, the bill promotes public data transparency by requiring insurers to publish prior authorization approval and denial rates through the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). This data, already collected by DCBS, will be aggregated and deidentified to protect patient privacy while enabling policymakers to identify systemic issues. For physical therapists, this transparency is essential. It provides evidence to advocate for policies that reduce unnecessary denials, ensuring patients receive timely rehabilitative care to prevent chronic conditions or delayed recovery.

Second, HB 3134 ensures reimbursement for medically necessary procedures discovered during approved surgeries, aligning Oregon with successful reforms in states like Colorado. This provision is vital for physical therapy patients recovering from surgical interventions. When insurers deny coverage for unforeseen but necessary procedures, it disrupts care continuity and delays rehabilitation. By allowing providers to submit claims as they do for other services—without risk of denial for lack of pre-approval—this bill eliminates bureaucratic hurdles, prioritizing patient health and supporting smoother recovery processes.

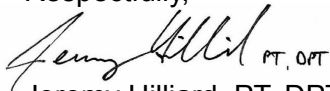
Finally, HB 3134 aligns Oregon's statutes with CMS regulations for electronic prior authorization, effective January 2027. This reform will create a more efficient system, reducing administrative burdens that strain healthcare providers. In my professional experience, navigating prior

authorization requirements consumes valuable time and resources. An electronic system will streamline submissions, cut waste, and maintain necessary oversight, allowing physical therapists to focus on delivering high-quality care.

HB 3134 is a practical, patient-centered reform that will improve transparency, access to care, and system efficiency. I respectfully urge your support for this bill to benefit Oregonians and strengthen our healthcare system.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Hilliard", followed by the text "PT, DPT" in a smaller font.

Jeremy Hilliard, PT, DPT

Past-President, APTA Oregon

Director of Clinical Education, George Fox University School of Physical Therapy