

February 6, 2026

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Diehl & Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

The Regional Family Networks are peer-to-peer organizations that empower families to build confidence and opportunity for their children with intellectual & developmental disabilities (I/DD), supporting full and enriching lives while strengthening families and communities. The Networks help create sustainable, community-based support systems and often serve as a trusted first point of contact when families encounter barriers within complex service and health care systems. Through this role, the Networks regularly see how administrative delays can result in real and preventable harm for individuals who rely on timely access to essential supports.

Complex rehabilitation technology (CRT), such as wheelchairs and other mobility equipment, are critical medical necessities for many of the individuals and families we serve. When this equipment requires repair, delays are not merely inconvenient; they are disruptive and, in some cases, dangerous. In the most severe situations, delayed repairs can lead to avoidable emergency department visits.

Section 8 of HB 4040 addresses this issue in a focused and responsible manner.

Eliminating prior authorization for CRT repairs under \$1,500 reduces the administrative burden that often causes unnecessary stress for individuals who rely on this equipment. In addition, establishing a 72-hour review timeline for higher-cost repairs provides accountability and helps prevent avoidable delays for services that are clearly necessary and time-sensitive.

Timely access to wheelchair repairs supports independence, keeps individuals engaged in their communities, and reduces strain on caregivers and public systems. We strongly believe Section 8 of HB 4040 represents a thoughtful and practical improvement to Oregon's health care and disability service systems.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support of HB 4040, Section 8.

Sincerely,

Isis Thornton-Saunders
On Behalf of Regional Family Networks