

Submitter: Burke Selbst
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3134

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3134, a crucial piece of legislation that seeks to reduce the administrative burden of prior authorization requirements in Oregon. As a healthcare provider dedicated to improving patient outcomes, I have witnessed firsthand how these delays disrupt care, harm patients, and strain clinical resources.

My name is Burke Selbst, PT, OCS, GCFP, and I am the owner of Focus Physical Therapy in Bend, Oregon. Our clinic provides community-based orthopedic, spine, sports, geriatric, and oncology rehabilitation, serving over 700 visits per month. Unfortunately, prior authorization requirements have consistently created barriers that jeopardize our ability to deliver timely and effective care.

For example, one of our patients underwent tethered cord release surgery and required physical therapy to regain strength, mobility, and independence. Due to a prior authorization delay, their therapy was interrupted, resulting in increased pain, loss of mobility, and decreased independence. When therapy was finally authorized, our team had to focus on recovering lost ground before we could continue progressing toward improved function. In another case, a patient recovering from hip reconstruction surgery experienced a significant loss of critical range of motion due to a prior authorization delay. Because gains in range of motion are time-sensitive, some of this loss may now be permanent. Tragically, these are just two examples among many.

Beyond the devastating patient impact, the administrative burden of prior authorization places a significant strain on our clinic. Each week, our dedicated administrative staff spends 3-4 hours managing prior authorization requests, while each provider spends an additional 30-60 minutes navigating these requirements. Challenges such as denials, long wait times, and redundant documentation requests are common. This burden takes time away from direct patient care, places excessive stress on our staff, and contributes to financial strain that limits our clinic's ability to expand services and improve care delivery.

By supporting HB 3134, you can help ensure that patients receive the timely, medically necessary care they deserve while alleviating the administrative burden on healthcare providers. I urge you to prioritize this bill and advocate for meaningful

reform to Oregon's prior authorization system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at burke@focusptbend.com or (541) 385-3344.

Sincerely,

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