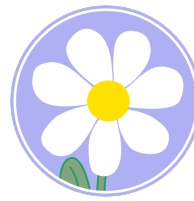


# Physical Therapy for Kids

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To the Oregon State Legislature:

Re: HB 3134

I am a practicing physical therapist in the Central Oregon area and own a small business that provides physical therapy services to infants and young children. Many families are unable to afford out of pocket expenses for medical care for their children and therefore I have chosen to accept several insurances to allow access to medical care. The process to check and then submit for prior authorization takes time and effort for my single person practice and limits the number of patients I can treat.

More importantly it causes delays with initiation of treatment and can interrupt an ongoing plan of care for reauthorizations. Infants and children grow, change, and develop rapidly and it is critical to provide treatment as early as possible to address their developmental motor limitations before they are further delayed or adapt inefficient movement patterns. Time is of the essence with this young population.

In the past I have worked with adult populations and seen how delays in care can create increased pain and abnormal compensatory movement patterns that are more challenging to address, creating a need for longer physical therapy intervention, as well as increase the possibility of chronic pain cycle.

I urge you to support House Bill 3134 to exempt physical therapists from some situations to improve access to healthcare and shorten overall treatment times.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon Skidmore, PT, DPT  
APTA member