

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

To Whom It May Concern,

As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3134, particularly its provisions addressing prior authorization reform including physical therapy. This legislation is a vital step toward improving patient access to timely physical therapy services while alleviating the administrative burdens that hinder care delivery. Utah recently just became the first state to declare Physical Therapists as a primary care provider, and this bill will help move Oregon forward in this manner as well, lifting our profession up and allowing patients greater ease to healthcare.

In my practice, prior authorization requirements often delay essential treatments for patients recovering from injuries, managing chronic pain, or striving to regain mobility. Furthermore, for children, these requirements delay care that is needed for early intervention to prevent further care in the future. These delays are compounded by the inconsistent and overly restrictive ways insurance companies define "medical necessity." Too often, their narrow criteria fail to account for the individualized needs of patients, dismissing evidence-based interventions that physical therapists know to be effective. HB 3134's efforts to streamline or reduce prior authorization barriers would not only expedite care but also challenge the arbitrary standards imposed by insurers, allowing us to prioritize patient outcomes over bureaucratic hurdles.

By passing House Bill 3134, the Oregon Legislature can empower physical therapists to focus on healing rather than navigating red tape, while ensuring that "medical necessity" reflects the realities of patient care rather than the preferences of insurance companies. I urge your support for this transformative bill.

Sincerely,
Emily J. Quinn, PT, DPT