

Submitter: Elizabeth Fitzgerald
On Behalf Of: Physical Therapists
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health
Care
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: HB3134

RE: Urgent Support Needed for HB3134 – Protect Access to Physical Therapy

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB3134 and my deep concern that this critical bill is at risk of being killed. This legislation, which allows patients to receive up to 16 physical therapy visits before requiring prior authorization, is essential for ensuring timely and effective healthcare in Oregon.

Prior authorization delays care, leading to worsened conditions, increased healthcare costs, and unnecessary suffering for patients. In my own experience, these delays have prolonged recovery, increased the risk of further injury, and forced both patients and providers to navigate an inefficient and bureaucratic process that ultimately hinders rather than helps. Instead of focusing on patient care, valuable time is wasted on excessive paperwork and administrative hurdles.

Physical therapy is a proven, cost-effective treatment that reduces the need for more expensive interventions like surgery and prescription medications. HB3134 would remove unnecessary barriers, improve patient outcomes, and lower overall healthcare costs. Allowing this bill to fail would be a step backward for Oregon's healthcare system and a disservice to the many patients who depend on timely access to treatment.

I urge you to stand with patients and providers by supporting HB3134 and ensuring it moves forward. Please do not let this bill be dismissed—its passage is critical to the health and well-being of Oregonians. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional insight into how prior authorization negatively impacts patient care.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,
Beth Fitzgerald, PT, DPT