

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

To whom it may concern,

As a practicing physical therapist in Oregon, I am writing to voice my strong support for House Bill 3134, especially its provisions aimed at reforming prior authorization processes for physical therapy. This bill is crucial for enhancing patient access to timely physical therapy services and reducing the administrative challenges that impede care delivery.

In my experience, prior authorization requirements frequently delay critical treatments for patients recovering from injuries, managing chronic pain, or working to regain mobility. These delays are exacerbated by the inconsistent and overly restrictive definitions of "medical necessity" used by insurance companies. Often, their narrow criteria overlook the individualized needs of patients and dismiss evidence-based interventions that physical therapists recognize as effective. By streamlining or reducing these prior authorization barriers, HB 3134 would not only speed up care but also question the arbitrary standards set by insurers, allowing us to prioritize patient outcomes over bureaucratic obstacles.

Passing House Bill 3134 would enable the Oregon Legislature to empower physical therapists to concentrate on healing rather than navigating red tape, ensuring that "medical necessity" aligns with the realities of patient care rather than the preferences of insurance companies. I strongly urge your support for this transformative bill.

Sincerely,

Jacob Hodges, PT, DPT