



# COALITION FOR A HEALTHY OREGON

Oregon's Voice for Community Based Health

COALITION FOR A HEALTHY OREGON (COHO)  
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## Via-Email

### Submitted to:

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
900 Court Street NE, Room HR-F  
Salem, OR 97301

**April 25, 2025**

Chair Nathan Sosa  
Vice-Chair Farrah Chaichi  
Vice-Chair Virgle Osborne  
Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

### **RE: Support for Senate Bill 550; Opposition to -2 Amendments**

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice-Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Henry T. O’Keeffe**, and I serve as the **Vice-President of Health Care Policy for the Pac/West Lobby Group**, representing the **Coalition for a Healthy Oregon (COHO)**. I am writing to express COHO’s strong support for **SB 550** as introduced and to respectfully oppose the proposed **-2 Amendments**.

SB 550 is a critical step toward ensuring that Oregonians who depend on electric wheelchairs and complex rehabilitation technology have timely access to necessary repairs. By requiring manufacturers to provide essential parts, tools, embedded software, and documentation to both users and independent repair providers, SB 550 addresses a significant barrier that has long trapped many Oregonians in long, debilitating waits for basic repairs.

**The -2 Amendments would severely undermine the effectiveness of this legislation.** By allowing manufacturers to unilaterally withhold parts, tools, and information based on vague or arbitrary criteria, the amendments create new and unjustified hurdles for wheelchair users who already face enough obstacles in accessing reliable mobility. Instead of empowering consumers, the -2 Amendments reinforce a system of manufacturer control that delays repairs and erodes

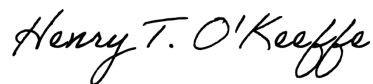
independence. The consumers are comfortable assuming the risk here. COHO believes that we should trust them.

Every day of delay in repairing a mobility device can mean missed work, missed school, or missed opportunities to participate fully in community life. These harms fall disproportionately on people with disabilities, low-income families, and seniors—groups COHO is committed to supporting. Moreover, complex rehabilitation equipment is already subject to strict health care regulations; adding additional barriers under the guise of "protection" is both **paternalistic and harmful**.

SB 550 as introduced strikes an appropriate and thoughtful balance between ensuring safety and expanding access. The -2 Amendments move in the wrong direction by protecting manufacturers at the expense of patients. Oregon's right to repair regime is new. SB 550 adds this to the bill complex rehabilitative technology to the existing regime. If it appears that we made a mistake, which we do not believe is likely, we can always come back. But for now, we should trust the people who are impacted by their self-repairs, rather than those who stand to profit from preventing those self-repairs.

**For these reasons, the Coalition for a Healthy Oregon urges your support for Senate Bill 550 without the -2 Amendments.** We thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your work on behalf of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,



**Henry T. O'Keeffe**

Vice-President of Health Care Policy

Pac/West Lobby Group

On behalf of the Coalition for a Healthy Oregon (COHO)

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