



February 5, 2026

TO: House Committee On Health Care  
FR: Charlie Fisher, State Director, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)  
RE: HB 4040

OSPIRG is a grassroots organization representing thousands of Oregonians across the state. We speak out for the public and stand up to special interests on problems that affect the public's health, safety and wellbeing.

OSPIRG supports two provisions in the HB 4040 omnibus.

**1. Section 8 - Removing barriers to wheelchair repairs**

This provision is a continuation of work from last session to remove barriers to repair for wheelchair users. One of the things we heard repeatedly during and after the conversation around right to repair for consumer electronics and appliances was how difficult it is to get an electric wheelchair fixed. One specific aspect of that problem is the long wait times for wheelchair users to get approval from Medicaid to have an authorized technician work on their chair.

SB 549 last session took a first step towards addressing that problem by requiring prior authorization to be determined within 72 hours for wheelchair users. This provision takes the next step by removing prior authorization for routine repairs that cost under \$1,500.

**2. Section 38 - Aligning Oregon's Prescription Drug Affordability Board with other states**

The high cost of prescription drugs is a major problem for Oregonians. OSPIRG has been a longtime supporter of the creation and work of Oregon's Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) as a critical body that can help bring down drug prices. This provision aligns the operation of Oregon's PDAB with other state PDABs by giving the Governor the authority to appoint the chair. Having an elected official who is directly accountable to the public is an important component to ensuring PDAB fulfills its founding charter "to protect residents ... from the high costs of prescription drugs."