



February 10, 2026

Oregon House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony on House Bill 4040 Sec. 8 providing a prior authorization exemption on repairs to complex rehabilitation products.

Multiple sclerosis, or MS, is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system, impacting an estimated 1 million Americans. Currently, there is no cure, though significant progress is being made to achieve Society's vision of a world free of MS. MS symptoms can and do interfere with mobility, including fatigue, spasticity, dizziness and vertigo, pain, numbness, and problems with walking, coordination, and vision, among others. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical to minimizing disability.

Some people living with more progressive forms of MS may rely on assistive technology equipment, also known as complex rehabilitation technology (CRT). These are medically necessary products that are individually configured to meet a person's needs; and includes manual and power wheelchairs and seating and positioning systems. A 2010 literature review published in the Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development highlighted that **"80% of persons with MS** experience gait problems due to muscle weakness or spasticity, fatigue, and loss of balance. To facilitate mobility, persons with MS frequently use mobility assistive technology (a type of CRT), such as canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, and scooters".¹ For people with progressive forms of MS, these complex, individually fitted and customized mobility devices are a necessity, not a luxury.

Because CRT meets people's medical needs, it decreases long-term healthcare costs. For example, if someone has a tilt-in-space feature or a high-quality seat cushion, it may decrease or eliminate the occurrence of pressure sores. Pressure sores typically take multiple visits to a wound clinic or physician's office to treat and heal, so prevention of them saves long-term healthcare and out-of-pocket costs.

¹ Journal of Rehabilitation Research & Development, 2010;57(3):213-23. Accessed online: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20665347/>

MS Activist Jennifer D. states:

While MS stole my ability to walk in 2002, the complex power chair I've had since 2011 has given me freedom once again. Not only are my medical needs met (I haven't had a pressure sore since), but the chair allows me to remain independent and an active part of my community. I've since achieved my dream of an advanced degree and, I will keep moving. This disease won't beat me.

The National MS Society supports the as written language in 2026 HB 4040 Sec. 8 regarding customized complex rehabilitation products (power wheelchairs & seating systems) being not subject to prior authorization on repairs less than \$1500 and the 72hr timeline for any prior authorization review approval or denial.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for Oregonians living with MS. For any questions or clarifications regarding the MS Society positions, please contact myself, Seth Greiner, Assistant Director of Government Affairs at seth.greiner@nmss.org.

We thank the committee for its time.

Regards,

Seth Greiner
Assistant Director of Government Affairs
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

