

From the Offices of Representative Hai Pham & Representative Lucetta Elmer

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Press Contact:

Office of Rep. Hai Pham, <u>Rep.HaiPham@oregonlegisalature.gov</u>
Office of Rep. Lucetta Elmer, <u>Rep.LucettaElmer@oregonlegislature.gov</u>

Oregon House Passes Bill To Close Gap On Coverage for Active Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices

SALEM, Ore. - Today, the House unanimously passed <u>SB 699</u>, part of the So Every Body Can Move national initiative, which expands the health insurance coverage of prosthetic and orthotic devices, including their repair and replacement.

Prosthetic devices are invaluable tools that can determine whether a person is able to work, participate in household responsibilities, or gain independence. Studies have shown that children with disabilities are 4.5 times less likely to engage in physical activity than children without disabilities. Children and adults living with limb loss or limb differences often require specialized prostheses and orthoses that can cost upwards of \$150,000 over the course of a single patient's lifetime.

"Movement is medicine and physical activity is a right. As someone who volunteered to help fit and provide free prosthetic hands to those in need, I know how prosthetics can transform lives," said **Representative Hai Pham (D-Hillsboro & W Beaverton).** "All Oregonians deserve to lead lives filled with healing physical activity,"

SB 699 aims to close the insurance gap and require coverage of acquisition, replacement and repair of active prosthetic and orthotic devices necessary for staying active. This bill will break down barriers and allow individuals living with limb difference or limb loss to lead full and active lives.

"SB 699 empowers Oregonians who've faced life-altering challenges to get back on their feet—literally. This bill supports hard working individuals who want to live fully, work, and contribute to their communities," said **Representative Lucetta Elmer (R-McMinnville)**.

With the passage of SB 699, Oregon joins 8 other states that have enacted similar legislation. The legislation now heads to Governor Tina Kotek's desk for signature.