

Representative Mollie Burke suggested I reach out to you to ask that you share this with the Chairperson and members of the House Health Care committee in support of [VT H 432](#), the [So Every BODY Can Move](#) bill, to be heard before the crossover date. I realize time is of the essence, but we believe this to be important legislation affecting all Vermonters with disabilities, and as such, has tremendous support from fellow representatives as well as a coalition of advocates, both health care professionals and individuals, prepared to share testimonies and lived experiences in support of the bill.

About Me:

My name is David Hiler, and I am the State Lead for [So Every BODY Can Move](#) in Vermont. I am a long-time Vermonter who grew up in Williamsville and Brattleboro. I am a local entrepreneur who has owned and operated multiple hospitality businesses in Southern Vermont. In January of 2020, I had my left leg amputated above the knee due to a Chondrosarcoma. As an active person (marathon runner, snowboarder, cyclist, paddler) not only did the cancer take my leg, but it took away much of what made me who I am. My insurance was able to get me a prosthetic to get me walking, however, I soon realized walking was as much activity as I would get with that leg. After five years, insurance has still not provided me with any additional prosthetics, including a replacement for the one I received originally, which is approaching functional obsolescence. Many individuals living with limb loss and limb difference are unable to find independence and freedom due to the limitations of prosthetic and orthotic coverage in Vermont.

Why We Need Legislative Change:

We need the Vermont State Legislature's support. Right now, people with limb loss and limb difference in Vermont are unable to access the prosthetic and orthotic care they need to be physically active again. Health insurance plans routinely deny access to this care because they believe it is not medically necessary. These denials force many people living with limb loss or limb difference to choose between a sedentary lifestyle and the risk of engaging in physical activities like running or jogging on a device which was only designed for basic movement. Children are denied the freedom to play. Adults and seniors are denied the ability to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

We are seeing change happen across the country to fix this problem, 8 states have already passed So Every BODY Can Move legislation over the past two years, which ensures that people with limb loss and limb difference have access to the medical care they need in order to be physically active. This legislation has received bipartisan support across the nation. I have always been proud of our "Brave Little State" in leading the way in so many grassroots efforts to do the right thing. This is again one of those moments and I hope you will help us bring So Every BODY Can Move legislation to Vermont.

Next Steps:

We would be honored to have your support in bringing forth House Bill 432 to be heard by your committee this session. If it's helpful to the committee chair or members, I am happy to schedule a virtual or in-person meeting to discuss our bill, our successes in other states, and how we can work together to ensure this legislation passes in VT.

Thank you for your support and attention to this request. I am attaching our local Vermont fact sheet and our national one pager for additional information.

Warm Regards,

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