

Written Testimony by Max Scherer:

Whether they are received by people born with limb differences or by amputees, prosthetics of all types can help build confidence, self-respect, and provide the ability to accomplish many new tasks.

I was born without my right arm. Throughout my life, I have always loved physical activity. Whether that activity was running around the neighborhood, biking with my friends, or playing basketball, I was just happy to be active. However, without a prosthetic arm, I felt limited. I remember not being able to swing on the monkey bars like the other kids, or do a handstand, or pushups.

Thankfully, I have grown up lucky to have access to prosthetic technology. In elementary school, I received my first prosthesis from the Shriners Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City. Every year, as I grow, my family and I fly out to Salt Lake City for new prostheses. While the hospital pays for my prostheses (until I turn 18), there is no such facility in Colorado, making this expensive trip not convenient nor accessible for many families.

Furthermore, I have often found my everyday arm ineffective for several important active tasks. Because of this, I have two prostheses, one for cosmetics and everyday activity, and one that is specialized for athletics. I use my additional prosthesis for weightlifting, where I need it specially fitted and customized with attachments that can hold weight; and also for playing golf with my dad.

Currently, both my devices are indispensable. However, when I turn 18, I will lose access to these free prostheses and, unless this bill is passed, will not be able to easily afford both devices I need to live comfortably.

HB-1136 will solve this problem by requiring health insurance to cover an additional prosthetic device necessary for physical activity. With your support, I ask that this committee approves this bill so that people like me have help getting the devices they need. I ask this committee to understand the importance of this bill and vote in favor of the people of Colorado. Please help us live healthy and active lives!