

To whom it may concern:

I write this letter in support of SF974 and assisted standing. For able and disabled people alike, there are many health advantages to standing. But, for those of us unable to stand, assisted standing is essential to our health. There are numerous health benefits of standing for both non-disabled people and people with disabilities. Research shows that people who sit more during the day are at increased risk for obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, back pain, and cancer. The advantages of standing include improved metabolism, a significant reduction in fatigue levels, increased productivity, and decreased risk of both diabetes and cancer.

Here are some of the many negative consequences of not standing:

- Increased urinary tract infections because one is unable to fully empty their bladder.
- Increased pressure sores. A single pressure sore can cause \$50,000.
- Decrease in bone density, which leads to broken bones and osteoporosis.
- Muscle contractures. Decreased lung function and circulation.
- Obesity.

Here are some of the positive consequences of standing:

- Increased independence in medically related activities of daily living which can lead to lower personal care assistance.
- Increased social interaction.
- Improved self-esteem.

Personally, because standing wheelchairs were not covered, I live with severe osteoporosis. I am at high risk for fractures. 2 years ago, I fell and shattered my tibia. I live with a broken (stable) sacrum. I didn't fall, it just broke. My sons and grandchildren live in Houston and Portland. I'm unable to visit them because the airline procedures of transferring me are too high risk. If they dropped me, my pelvic area would shatter and likely lead to my death. I miss them dearly.

In my humble opinion, the math is simple. Covering standing wheelchairs which lead to far less expenditure in Medicaid and Medicare outlays as well as private insurance expenditures.

Sincerely,

Robert Wagner LP