



Date: February 4, 2026

To: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Senate Finance Committee Members

Position: Favorable

Reference: Senate Bill 276-Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Coverage for Orthoses (So Every Body Can Move Act)

Dear Chair, Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of LifeBridge Health, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 276, the *So Every Body Can Move Act*. LifeBridge Health's Rehabilitation Institute at Sinai Hospital provides a comprehensive continuum of rehabilitative care for patients recovering from illness, injury, surgery, and complex neurological conditions. Our services include acute rehabilitation within Sinai Hospital as well as care at our CARF-accredited inpatient rehabilitation hospital. Patients receive individualized, interdisciplinary treatment that includes physical, occupational, and speech therapy, along with physician-led care and specialized clinical support.

Senate Bill 276 builds upon Maryland's existing coverage framework by ensuring access to medically necessary, personalized orthoses. These devices—custom-designed, fabricated, molded, fitted, or modified to treat neuromuscular or musculoskeletal conditions—are not off-the-shelf products. For our patients, appropriate orthotic devices are truly life-changing and essential to functional recovery, mobility, and long-term health. By expanding coverage to include orthoses, Maryland can help individuals safely return to physical activity, maintain independence, and reduce the risk of secondary conditions associated with immobility, including hypertension, diabetes, and vascular disease. These preventable complications contribute to higher long-term costs for insurers and public programs than the modest coverage expansion anticipated under this bill.

Many patients served by LifeBridge Health live with chronic conditions for which regular, safe movement is medically necessary to sustain health and prevent decline. Orthotists and physicians work collaboratively to determine the most appropriate orthotic solutions to preserve function, prevent further impairment, and support overall well-being. Current coverage limitations often restrict patients to a single orthosis designed for basic ambulation, excluding medically appropriate devices needed for vocational, therapeutic, or higher-level physical activities. Senate Bill 276 would allow eligible patients to access orthoses that support both their physical and psychological health, when clinically indicated.

Other states have recognized that restrictive coverage may conflict with federal antidiscrimination standards. For example, Colorado determined that limiting orthotic and prosthetic coverage undermined essential health benefits by preventing individuals with disabilities from engaging in physical and recreational activities necessary for health and independence. Maryland can adopt a similarly equitable and clinically sound approach. We recognize the fiscal constraints facing the State this year; however, we believe Senate Bill 276 will result in minimal premium impact while producing meaningful health benefits and potential long-term cost avoidance. For these reasons, LifeBridge Health respectfully urges a **favorable report on Senate Bill 276**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Jennifer Witten, M.B.A.

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