



Committee: House Health Committee

Bill Numbers: House Bill 445 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses (So Every Body Can Move Act)

Hearing Date: February 12, 2026

Position: Support

The Coordinating Center is pleased to support **House Bill 445**. We provide care coordination to nearly 10,000 Marylanders annually through Medicaid programs and home- and community-based waivers. Our goal is to support our clients in living as independently as possible in their own communities. Many of the individuals we serve rely on orthoses to maintain stability, mobility, safety, and independence in their homes and communities.

We appreciate the bill's expanded and modernized definitions of orthoses and prostheses, which more accurately reflect the full range of devices our clients rely on. Many Marylanders need custom-designed or custom-fabricated orthotic and prosthetic devices due to neuromuscular or musculoskeletal conditions, limb loss, or other complex medical needs. These devices are essential for preventing decline, maintaining mobility and balance, restoring function, and ensuring safety in the community.

House Bill 445 ensures people living with disabilities are not denied medically necessary orthotic or prosthetic devices due to inconsistent or overly restrictive utilization guidelines. Aligning medical-necessity standards with Medicare provides clearer, fairer criteria and reduces denials, appeals, and delays in access to equipment that is vital for daily life and long-term health.

We also strongly support the bill's acknowledgment that orthoses and prostheses are critical not only for activities of daily living, but also for employment, community participation, and engagement in physical activity that promotes whole-body health. Our clients often need these devices to maintain safe mobility at work or to



participate in rehabilitative or fitness activities that improve outcomes and reduce healthcare costs.

Affordability remains one of the greatest barriers to access. House Bill 445 strengthens essential consumer protections by prohibiting higher cost sharing for orthotic and prosthetic devices and banning separate dollar limits. These provisions are especially important for low-income Marylanders, many of whom depend on these devices to remain independent and avoid preventable complications.

Finally, orthoses and prostheses often require replacement due to changes in a person's condition, growth, or device wear. The bill's clear replacement provisions prevent dangerous gaps in function and safety. We have seen clients forced to use devices that are no longer safe or functional because insurers denied timely replacements, a practice this bill helps address.

We respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 445.

If any additional information would be helpful, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.