

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

**POSITION: Support**  
February 12, 2026  
House Health Committee

The University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute (“UM ROI”) and University of Maryland Medical System (“UMMS”) respectfully submit this letter of support for House Bill 445 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses (So Every Body Can Move Act). House Bill 445 (“HB 445”) would expand the current coverage of orthoses to require a carrier to provide – once annually – coverage for orthoses, components of orthoses, and repairs to orthoses. The General Assembly considered a similar measure for prostheses in 2024 (SB 614), and the legislation passed unanimously in the Senate (45-0) and with a near unanimous vote in the House (135-1).

**Background**

UM ROI has been serving Baltimore and Maryland for over 130 years as a provider of orthopedic surgery and the largest inpatient rehabilitation hospital and provider of rehabilitation services in the State. The hospital joined the University of Maryland Medical System in 1986, and the relationship with UMMS allows UM ROI patients to access the continuity of care and extensive resources of a university teaching hospital. UM ROI is Joint Commission and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited, with specialty accreditation in Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Rehabilitation, Stroke Rehabilitation, Amputee Rehabilitation, and Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program.

UM ROI hosts 142 acute and chronic rehabilitation beds as well as outpatient rehabilitation services. Last year, the hospital admitted 1,883 patients and conducted nearly 19,000 outpatient physical therapy and occupational therapy visits. The majority of patients served are for rehabilitation related issues, from diagnosis such as stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, musculoskeletal disorders, and limb loss.

Many individuals receiving care from UM ROI, particularly those patients with certain musculoskeletal and neurological disorders have a lifetime need for orthosis. Moreover, the type of orthosis needed by the patient may change over time with the evolution of their condition and recovery, as well as the specific type of activity being performed. HB 445 addresses the issue of evolving care and patient needs by requiring coverage of orthoses, components of orthoses, and repairs to orthoses at least once *annually*. This policy change will help to increase activity levels, which in turn will improve both physical and psychological health.

Given the current challenges facing the State there may be questions around the fiscal impact of this legislation, particularly related to utilization by Medicaid enrollees. However, similar

legislation has been adopted in other jurisdictions, and the overall utilization rate for orthoses is extremely low (<5%). In addition, individuals with activity and mobility impairments, especially elderly individuals, are more likely to be readmitted to the hospital. Hospital readmissions are a significant driver of hospital-based care in Maryland and nationwide. Providing coverage of orthoses as contemplated in HB 445 will assist our ongoing efforts to reduce hospital readmissions and the overall growth of healthcare costs in the State.

For these reasons, the University of Maryland Medical System strongly supports HB 445, and respectfully requests a *favorable* report on the bill.

Respectfully submitted by:

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**About the University of Maryland Medical System**

University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) delivers comprehensive health care services throughout Maryland. UMMS physicians and patient care teams work hand-in-hand with University of Maryland School of Medicine specialists to provide primary, urgent, emergency and specialty care at 11 hospitals and more than 150 medical facilities across the State. The UMMS network includes academic, community and specialty hospitals that together provide 25% of all hospital-based care in Maryland.