



Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change
The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Maryland

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House Health Committee
House Bill 445:
Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance -
Coverage for Orthoses and Protheses (So Every Body Can Move Act)
February 12, 2026
Position: Support

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the federally-mandated Protection and Advocacy agency for the State of Maryland, charged with defending and advancing the rights of people with disabilities. DRM submits this testimony in support of House Bill 445 (So Every Body Can Move Act), which would require Maryland Medicaid and private health insurers to provide coverage for orthoses and prostheses needed for daily living, essential job-related activities, and physical activity for whole body health. HB 445 expands access to orthoses and prostheses, helping more Marylanders obtain medically necessary mobility devices.

Access to orthoses and prostheses is essential for many Marylanders with disabilities to participate fully in daily life, including work, recreation, and exercise. However, current health insurance coverage rarely extends beyond what is deemed medically necessary, which is usually limited to basic activities of daily living. Marylanders who need custom orthoses or prostheses for work or physical activities often must pay out of pocket to participate. These devices can be prohibitively expensive for middle- and lower-income individuals, making it difficult for people who need custom orthoses and prostheses to fully engage in their personal, professional, and social environments.

HB 445 is necessary for true community integration for Marylanders with disabilities. Engaging in daily life, work, and physical activity should not be a luxury reserved for those who can afford orthoses and prostheses. HB 445 will provide many Marylanders with disabilities the freedom to move, build strength and confidence, and connect with supportive communities—all of which are important for maintaining both mental and physical health.

We maintain the same support we expressed for last year's version of the bill, which unfortunately did not advance to the Governor's desk. This strengthened version of the bill, which includes prostheses, deserves your unanimous support. Thank you for your consideration of this critical bill.

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For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 445. Should you have any further questions, please contact Audrey Sellers, Advocate at Disability Rights Maryland at AudreyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org or (443) 692-2507.