



February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Maryland House of Representatives  
Health Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **support of House Bill 445 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses (So Every Body Can Move Act)**.

This bill would expand Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, including nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to expand coverage related to orthoses and prostheses. By mandating coverage for expanded forms of orthoses, this legislation addresses a critical need for individuals, including children, who require these custom devices to manage and improve their mobility, independence, and quality of life. For example, children with cerebral palsy or other neuromuscular conditions often rely on orthoses for physical support and functional improvement. Ensuring insurance coverage for these devices will alleviate financial burdens on families and ensure that children receive the care they need without delay.

This bill also addresses the important need of coverage for repair and maintenance. In the majority of cases, orthotic and prosthetic care utilized for physical activity is not considered “medically necessary” or “reasonable and necessary” – the standards for insurance coverage – by most federal, state, and private health plans. Without health plan coverage, out-of-pocket costs, ranging from \$5,000 – \$30,000 per device, often prohibit people who live with amputation from getting access to this technology. Coverage to help maintain devices is extremely limited. As healthcare providers, we have firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by Maryland’s children, particularly those from underserved communities. HB 445 addresses these challenges by ensuring equitable access to orthoses, which are essential for treating various disorders and conditions. By implementing this measure, Maryland can lead the way in reducing health disparities and improving outcomes for vulnerable populations.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support of HB 445 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses (So Every Body Can Move Act) and requests a favorable report.** The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for our state’s pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Chapter legislative chair, Dr. JD Murphy, at [mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com](mailto:mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com).

Sincerely,

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Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair

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