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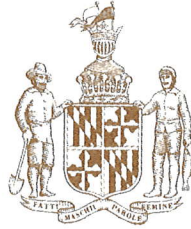
Chair, Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management
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Spending Affordability Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 14, 2024

**SENATE BILL 614 MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND HEALTH INSURANCE
-COVERAGE FOR ORTHOSES AND PROTHESES**

Madam Vice-Chair Klausmeier and Members of the Finance Committee;

Thank you for hearing SB 614. This bill is part of a national movement often referred to as "So Every Body Can Move" It is supported by the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, the Amputee Coalition, the National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics and the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists.

A similar bill has passed in five (5) States and is currently being considered in nine (9) states. This bill will change orthotic and prosthetic care; this bill addresses an equity issue that will change lives.

Prostheses are needed when someone loses a limb or is born missing a limb. Currently, Medicare and commercial health insurance providers will allow for one prosthetic limb per missing body segment. Prosthetic limbs are fabricated to allow for patients to participate in and complete their activities of daily living, but technology exists for these devices to be activity specific. If a person would like to engage in other sports, for example: running, skiing, weightlifting, snowboarding, dancing and bicycling, other prosthetics are needed to maximize their safety and function.

Orthoses are defined as rigid or semi-rigid devices that support or correct the spine or limbs due to injury or an underlying medical condition. These devices can allow a child or an adult to engage in exercise or recreation beyond what is considered simple ambulation.

We know exercise can improve our overall health and prevent obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Overall, helping people to move will improve health and save costs for Medicaid and commercial insurance.

I have a panel that will express the need for additional custom prostheses, from a child born without a limb to a decorated Marine Veteran that is training for the 2024 Paralympics in Track and Field and the 2026 Paralympics in Snowboarding and adaptive CrossFit. I also have the Chair of the Rehabilitation Department at Sinai Hospital, who has served as the department chair for over 20 years. He also runs the prosthetic clinic and works with a team of medical professionals that help children and adults receive the prostheses and orthoses that they need to live their daily lives.

You will hear about a few suggested amendments, and we will certainly consider the amendments. Typically, there is a PMPM report completed by the HCC, however, the HCC did not have time to complete the PMPM report this past fall. We have a PMPM completed by a consultant that analyzed the nine states that are considering this legislation. This PMPM is the second report she has completed, and other states have passed their legislation based on this research.

First, I will share a brief power point and a short news clip. After hearing the testimony, I hope you will give SB 614 a favorable report.

