

Date: March 28, 2024

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

Reference: Senate Bill 614- Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Prostheses (So Every Body Can Move Act), previously called Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance- Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses, cross-filed with HB 865

**Position: Favorable with Amendments adopted by Senate Finance Committee**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and HGO Committee Members,

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my comments on this important piece of legislation and to encourage your support for SB614, cross-filed with HB865. Last month, during the hearing for this legislation, HGO had the opportunity to hear from a team of providers, patients, and advocates about how activity-specific devices are crucial for maintaining physical, emotional, and mental well-being. You heard from Nathan, who needs an activity-specific device to play baseball with his friends, and from Shannon, who wants to be able to safely enjoy the beach with her loved ones. This legislation supports people like Nathan and Shannon who simply want to participate in these activities to live a full and active life.

Since these hearings, our advocate team has worked closely with private carriers, Medicaid, and other state agencies on consensus amendments. These amendments address specific technical issues and limit coverage until further data is acquired on possible costs and including orthoses.

After doing a review of previous year all-payer claims in Maryland, we were able to identify that Medicaid's total cost for these devices have never surpassed over \$200K a year. We feel confident that we will not be contributing unobtainable coverage costs. Although we anticipate there would be a moderate increase in costs to Medicaid and MCOs it would be manageable and long-term more cost effective by avoiding many of the chronic issues that follow an amputee if not properly supported.

The amendments include:

- Address carrier concerns and place a cap of coverage for MCOs for a year to address the fiscal note,
- Strike cosmesis from the bill entirely; and
- Removes the orthotics language from the bill until a further study is conducted by MHCC, Medicaid, and MIA.

Please vote favorable on the amended SB614 and conform HB 865 to SB614. This will provide Marylanders with limb loss and limb difference access to the prosthetic care they need to live full, active lives.

Nina Bondre, CPO, FAAOP