



MARYLAND PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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February 13, 2024

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB865: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance-Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses

Position: Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA), representing over 260 podiatrists licensed in Maryland and the practice of podiatry, I write to support SB 614 with amendments. We appreciate the Sponsor's willingness to discuss our proposed amendments and believe this bill will make quality orthotics more available to many of our patients.

On page 2, line 27, delete “, prefabricated or modified device” and insert “or” before “customed fitted”.

We strongly believe prefabricated devices do not necessarily provide patients with the best and most affordable products. Many prefabricated products offered in retail establishments do not give the patient adequate corrective measures to address their medical issues. Moreover, these products are often significantly more expensive than custom fitted products available from their podiatrist.

On page 2, lines 27-28, amend from “neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disorder or acquired condition” to “neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, acquired, or congenital condition.”

This amendment addresses the various congenital conditions that are not an acquired condition, which may require the need for orthosis.

On page 3, lines 16-17, insert “neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, acquired, or congenital” after “physiological”.

This amendment takes into consideration the foot growth of younger patients as well as the various changes that can occur with a patient requiring a new orthosis. Such changes include weight loss, weight gain, and sequelae of disease, injury, surgery, or amputations.

On page 3, line 28, change “3” to “1” to reflect that orthosis can be replaced yearly.

It is a commercial insurance standard that orthosis can be replaced yearly when documenting medical necessity.

On page 4, line 18, replace “physician” with “healthcare provider”.

This change to provider neutral language ensures that more than just physicians can provide orthotic and prosthetic services.

On page 5, line 6, replace “orthopedic provider” with “healthcare provider.”

This change to provider neutral language ensures that more than just physicians can provide orthotic and prosthetic services.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable vote on SB 614.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Richard Bloch, MPMA Executive Director, at Richard@SBHPA.com or (410) 332-0736.

Sincerely,



Adam Lowy, D.P.M., MPMA President