



February 15, 2024

To: The House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Adventist HealthCare

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

HB865 will require MD Medicaid and commercial insurance plans to cover prosthetic and orthotic devices necessary for physical activity. This bill will expand access to a range of orthotic and prosthetic devices that enable the user to engage in physical activity. Patients suffering from limb loss often struggle to engage in physical activity due to the limitations of their prosthetic device. Having access to the right prosthetic enables patients to engage in an active and healthy lifestyle.

Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation serves many patients dealing with limb loss. Many are elderly and at a high risk of falls. Having access to more technologically advanced prostheses greatly reduces the risk of fall and subsequent injuries. For younger patients, access to prosthetics that can support physical activity is truly life changing. Children with disabilities are 4.5 times less likely to engage in physical activity than children without disabilities. Currently, less than 17.5% of youth with disabilities are meeting recommended daily physical activity levels. This places them at a higher risk of negative health outcomes like obesity. Having access to the right prosthetic will benefit all our patients, young and old.

Currently, patients must come out of pocket for more advanced prosthetics which is a significant financial burden on families, especially on those with fewer economic means. This bill would provide an equal opportunity for all our patients to access the prosthetics that best support their lifestyle. Access to the right prosthetics can help patients lead a safer, healthier, and more fulfilling life.

For these reasons, Adventist HealthCare supports HB865 and encourages the committee to give **a favorable report.**

