

Date: March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 Pena-Melnyk, and HGO Committee Members:

Last month, during the hearing for HB 865, the cross-filed bill for SB 614, you had the opportunity to hear from multiple patients and care providers the importance of providing activity-specific devices for patients when determined to be medically necessary by their healthcare provider. This legislation will allow for individuals who testified at the bill hearing like Shannon to safely go to the beach with their families, live out their dreams of being a lifeguard, and for individuals like 11 year old Nathan to continue to hit home runs and play baseball with their peers.

Since the bill hearings, we, the advocates, met with the commercial carriers, Medicaid, and other stakeholders, and **we have achieved consensus amendments for this legislation**. These amendments address technical language issues, and limit coverage for orthoses until additional analysis can be completed to truly understand the fiscal impact. It is important to note that further investigation of previous Medicaid claims has shown that the cost of these devices should not surpass \$200,000 annually, **a significant decrease from the original fiscal note**.

The amendments to Senate Bill 614:

- Address carrier concerns, placing a cap on coverage for MCOs in order to address the fiscal note
- Strike cosmesis from the bill language
- Remove orthotics coverage language from the bill and ask for a study to be complete by MHCC and Medicaid, consulting with MIA, to determine the fiscal impact for orthotic parity and activity-specific orthotics coverage.

Today, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 is the home opener for the Baltimore Orioles. I cannot think of a better way to support Nathan on his dreams of becoming a MLB athlete than by passing this legislation. We urge the House and Government Operations Committee to take action immediately and support this important legislation. Allow Marylanders with limb loss and limb difference access to the prosthetic care they need to live full, active lives. **Please vote favorable on the amended SB 614 and conform HB 865 to SB 614.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO Certified Prosthetist Orthotist