



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 865
Title:	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses
Hearing Date:	February 15, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports House Bill 865 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses*. This bill will require Medicaid and private insurance coverage in Maryland for orthoses and prostheses.

Occupational therapists often work with patients who receive prostheses or orthoses as part of the medical team working with the patient as they go through rehabilitation and learn how to use their new limb or device. Orthotic and prosthetic care utilized for physical activity is not considered “medically necessary” or “reasonable and necessary” – the standards for insurance coverage – by most federal, state, and private health plans. Without health plan coverage, out-of-pocket costs, ranging from \$5,000 – \$30,000 per device, often prohibit people who live with amputation from getting access to this technology. As a result, physical activity accessible by specialized orthoses and prostheses is severely limited. Without insurance coverage, individuals with limb loss and limb difference often remain more sedentary or risk serious injury by exercising with improper devices. MOTA supports this bill because it provides access to necessary care for people experiencing limb loss and limb difference.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.