



Date: March 28, 2024

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

Reference: Senate Bill 614, Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses cross-filed with HB865

Position: Favorable with Amendments adopted by Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chair Pena Melnyk and HGO Committee Members,

You heard from several advocates including Nathan, who just wants to play baseball like his friends why this legislation is critical for better life outcomes. After the hearings were held, the advocates collaborated with the private carriers, Medicaid and other state agencies on consensus amendments that address technical issues identified, as well as limiting coverage until a further study is conducted on the potential costs and orthotic inclusion. This provides a good pathway in providing access and hopefully we can address equity considerations at the following legislative session. 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 MCO's 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.

We urge the House and Government Operations Committee to act immediately and support this important legislation. 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. We urge your favorable action on these bills.

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer Witten, M.B.A.

Vice President, Government Relations & Community Development

jwitten2@lifebridgedhealth.org

CARE BRAVELY