

2/10/25

Maryland Senate
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter, I am writing to express our support of **SB 406 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses (So Every Body Can Move Act)**.

This bill would require Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, including nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide certain coverage related to orthoses and prostheses.

By mandating coverage for orthoses, this legislation addresses a critical need for individuals, including children, who require these custom devices to manage and improve their mobility, independence, and quality of life. For example, children with cerebral palsy or other neuromuscular conditions often rely on orthoses for physical support and functional improvement. Ensuring insurance coverage for these devices will alleviate financial burdens on families and ensure that children receive the care they need without delay.

In the majority of cases, 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, risk serious injury by exercising with improper devices, or hope to be one of the lucky few to receive a charitable gift or sponsorship. Over 50 nonprofits exist in the United States to provide donated orthotic and prosthetic care that is not covered by insurance, helping thousands of people each year; but collectively, they cannot meet the needs of over two million people living with limb loss in the United States and countless more with limb difference and mobility impairments.

As healthcare providers, we have firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by Maryland’s children, particularly those from underserved communities. HB 383 addresses these challenges by ensuring equitable access to orthoses, which are essential for treating various disorders and conditions. By implementing this measure, Maryland can lead the way in reducing health disparities and improving outcomes for vulnerable populations.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **SB 406 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses (So Every Body Can Move Act)**.

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chesapeake Chapter President, President, Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Yvette Laboy

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