



## **MARYLAND PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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### **HB383: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance-Coverage for Orthoses (So Every Body Can Move Act)**

#### **Position: Support with amendments**

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

On behalf of the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA), representing over 260 podiatrists licensed in Maryland and the practice of podiatry, I write to support HB 383 with amendments. We appreciate the Sponsor's willingness to discuss our proposed amendments and believe this bill will make quality orthotics more available to many of our patients and improve their quality of life.

**On page 1, lines 26-27, amend from "neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disorder or acquired condition" to "neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, acquired, or congenital condition."**

This amendment addresses the various congenital conditions that are not an acquired condition, which may require the need for orthosis.

**On page 3, line 33, change "3" to "1" to reflect that orthosis can be replaced yearly.**

It is a commercial insurance standard that orthosis can be replaced yearly when documenting medical necessity.

Orthotics in the field of podiatric medicine provide a profound impact on everyday lives of our patients. These custom-made orthosis provide patients with the ability to maintain a high quality of relief in their lower extremities as a result decreasing abnormal forces that transfer through the limbs. Orthotics have been shown to be beneficial in a variety of activities such as rigorous job environments, wide range of sports, and everyday life. In some situations, providing patients with an activity specific device is necessary to be tailored to their needs to better their health and overall well-being.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable vote on HB 383.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Richard Bloch, MPMA Executive Director, at [Richard@SBHPA.com](mailto:Richard@SBHPA.com) or (410) 332-0736.

Sincerely,

Adam Lowy, D.P.M., MPMA President