Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 383

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

Hearing Date: January 30, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 383 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses (So Every Body Can Move Act)*. The bill will redefine orthosis and require Medicaid and private insurance to cover orthoses, components, repairs, and some replacements once annually.

Occupational therapy practitioners often work as part of the rehabilitative team for patients who receive orthoses. Orthoses are used to provide support, correct alignment, reduce pain, and improve the function of various body parts. A proper-fitting, custom-molded orthosis is imperative to proper patient treatment. Currently, Maryland requires insurance coverage for prostheses but not orthoses, despite differences in these devices to meet the individual needs of different types of patients. Orthotic 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 range in the thousands and often prohibit patients from getting access to this technology. As a result, physical activity accessible by specialized orthoses is severely limited. Without insurance coverage, individuals with limb differences often remain more sedentary and risk serious injury resulting in decreased quality of life.

MOTA supports this bill because it provides access to necessary care for people experiencing limb differences. We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.