

**Health and Government Operations Committee
House Bill 383
Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance -
Coverage for Orthoses (So Every Body Can Move Act)
January 30, 2025
Position: Support**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) submits this testimony in support of House Bill 383, So Every Body Can Move Act, which would require Maryland Medicaid and private health insurers to provide coverage for orthoses for daily living, essential job-related activities, and physical activity for whole body health. HB 383 increases access to orthoses, making movement more accessible to all Marylanders.

Orthoses can be critical for Marylanders with disabilities to perform routine, everyday activities like work, recreation, and exercise. However, currently, health insurance rarely covers orthoses beyond what is medically necessary, which is usually limited to activities of daily living. Marylanders that need custom orthoses for work or physical activities often must pay out of pocket to participate. Orthoses can be prohibitively expensive for middle- and lower-income Marylanders, making it difficult for people who need custom orthoses to fully participate in their personal, professional, and social environments.

The "So Every Body Can Move Act" is necessary for true community integration for Marylanders with disabilities. Engaging in daily living, work, and physical activity should not be a luxury for those that can afford orthoses. HB 383 gives Marylanders with disabilities the freedom to move, build strength and confidence, and connect with other support, which are all important for maintaining mental and physical health.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical legislation. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 383. Please do not hesitate to contact me AudreyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org or (443) 692-2507.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Sellers
Advocate
Disability Rights Maryland