



## MARYLAND PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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February 9, 2026

Chair Heather Bagnall  
Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison  
House Health Committee  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **HB445: 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 230 podiatrists licensed in Maryland and the practice of podiatry, I write to support HB 445 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 3, lines 4-7, 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.

Orthotics in the field of podiatric medicine provide a profound impact on everyday lives of our patients. These custom-made orthoses 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 445. 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,

  
Priya Parthasarathy, D.P.M., MPMA President

Cc: Adam Lowy, D.P.M., Immediate Past-President and Legislative Chair  
Sarah Peters, Lobbyist, HBS Maryland  
Richard Bloch, J.D., Executive Director