



## American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics, Inc.

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RE.: H. B. No. 49

Chairman Hackett, Vice-Chair Tavares and members of the Senate Finance, Health and Medicaid Subcommittee. I am writing on behalf of the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc. (ABC), which is the national certification and accreditation body for the orthotics, prosthetics and pedorthics (O&P) profession. ABC supports the current Ohio licensure requirements and is concerned that bill HB 49 includes a complete repeal of the licensure requirement in Ohio.

It is our understanding that this action is an effort to lower regulatory costs and to create a more business friendly environment in Ohio. Unfortunately, eliminating the O&P licensing requirements will have an adverse effect on the citizens in Ohio in need of O&P care. If the O&P licensing requirements are repealed, the patient protections embodied in those requirements will be swept away. Appropriate licensure and certification creates a high standard for those individuals providing O&P patient care. ABC strongly supports protecting the Ohio licensure requirements. Licensure is an appropriate mechanism to hold healthcare professionals to standards that ensure the patients we serve receive safe and effective care.

Earlier versions of HB49 contemplated combining multiple boards under a newly created board. ABC believes this option is a viable means to lower regulatory costs but would maintain patient protections established when Ohio passed its licensure requirements. We urge the Subcommittee to strike the language repealing the O&P licensure requirements. If you have any questions please contact me at (703) 836-7114, ext. 216, or by email at [sfletcher@abcop.org](mailto:sfletcher@abcop.org).

Sincerely,

Steve Fletcher, CPO  
Director, Clinical Resources