



Ohio Orthotics and Prosthetics Association

Regarding HB49 – Interested Party

THE SENATE FINANCE HEALTH AND MEDICAID SUBCOMMITTEE

May 11, 2017

Chairman Hackett, Vice-Chair Tavares, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this morning. My name is Dianne Farabi. I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Orthotics and Prosthetics Association (OOPA).

Our organization's primary charge is to educate and promote quality, professional orthotic/prosthetic and pedorthic services and care to those who are physical challenged. Our group of stakeholders is a small one. However, the services provided by prosthetists, orthotists and pedorthists comprise a critical, broad range of specialized hands-on care. This may include fitting, adjusting or customizing braces to working with surgeons in a post amputation patient setting, fitting halo braces or design, fabrication, fitting of prosthetic devices to provide assistive mobility or restore physiological function.

My testimony this morning will be very brief. My reason for being here is to call to your attention a surprise provision in the substitute version of HB49 proposes to eliminate licensure for orthotists, prosthetists and pedorthists. This is concerning. Through the licensing standards in 4779, the Board plays an important role in assuring that amputees and other physically challenged individuals receive care by qualified individuals. Without licensing, patients needing any of these services are at the mercy of anyone who may call himself/herself a practitioner.

The 123rd General Assembly overwhelming passed legislation in 2000 to establish licensure of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic practitioners. The bill put in place standards for this group of specialized caregivers to provide accountability and assurance of appropriate care for individuals requiring orthotic, prosthetic or pedorthic care.

We request that attention be given to restoring OPP licensure. We are fully aware of the State's budgetary challenges. However, we believe that there is opportunity to gain operational efficiencies for the State, the applicants and licensees. We welcome the opportunity for thoughtful deliberation and discussion among the appropriate agencies who may be involved.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

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