



May 9, 2017

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Mr. Robert D. Hackett, Chair  
Ms. Charletta B. Tavares, Vice-Chair  
Members of Ohio Senate Finance, Health and Medicaid Subcommittee

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 Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (the Academy) which is the premier organization representing professionals in orthotics and prosthetics (O&P). The Academy is dedicated to promoting professionalism and advancing the standards of patient care through education, literature, research, advocacy, and collaboration.

In keeping with its mission, the Academy supports the highest standards for clinicians to ensure quality comprehensive orthotic and/or prosthetic services for the public. Licensure of orthotists and prosthetists is recognized as the preferred method of establishing patient protection mechanisms through legislated state standards.

The Academy is a strong proponent of state licensure laws for orthotists and prosthetists, including the current licensure requirements in the state of Ohio.

H.B. 49 in its current form has the potential to eliminate the important patient protection of state licensure of orthotists and prosthetists. Earlier versions retained patient protections while combining various boards as a cost-saving move. While this seems a reasonable effort to gain efficiency, the bill now proposed completely eliminates this segment of licensure and the protection it provides for the citizens of Ohio.

The Academy is urging the Subcommittee to consider striking the language repealing O&P licensure requirements.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Miller, CO, FAAOP  
President, American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists