

Edward Vanasdale

Re: Ohio HB49- Interested Party

May 24, 2017

Senate Finance-Health and Medicaid
Subcommittee

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Tavares, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to speak before you today. My name is Edward Vanasdale. I want to address the elimination of the licensing for orthotic, prosthetics and pedorthics suppliers.

I was injured on the job in 1999. At the time I was working for an industrial real estate firm as a maintenance technician. I broke my leg while on the job. For over 13 years I went through many surgeries and spent months at a time on crutches. At one point I even had a replacement ankle which became severely infected. As a result, the replacement was removed and a piece of donor bone was placed in my leg. During this time with all the problems, I continued to work a 40-hour week. The donor bone did not heal properly, and the decision was made to have my leg amputated below the knee. I did a lot of research to find the right surgeon, prosthesis, and right prosthetist.

The people involved in creating and fitting the prosthesis for amputees are required to be trained and licensed. Their education is thorough and the state requirements for licensing are comprehensive. The individuals issuing the prosthetics are tested before they can open an office to fit and supply orthotics, prosthetics, or pedorthics. With the O P & P board requirements I know that Ohio amputees and Ohioans who need orthotics or pedorthics, will be properly protected from charlatans. There are unqualified people who are looking to make money without the guarantee of supplying the correct medical devices. Since the O P & P Board offers protection, Ohioans can rest assured that they are receiving the best possible care. Without licensing Ohioans will be without assurance of

appropriate care at a most vulnerable time in their lives and with no recourse if such care is found to be substandard. In August I will have been an amputee for five years. During this time I have been a productive member of society providing for my family and have not been a burden to the tax payers of Ohio. Without the proper prosthesis and prosthetic care I would not have been able to be a working member of the community.

Ohio has so far been on the leading edge of consumer protection for prosthetic, orthotic and pedorthic care. It will be a step backward if the State dismisses the importance of appropriate prosthetic, orthotic and pedorthic care.

Thank you again for the opportunity to talk about these proposed changes.

Respectfully,

Edward Vanasdale

an amputee for 5 years. During this time I have been a productive member of society providing for my family and have not been a burden to the tax payers of Ohio. Without the correct prothesis I would not be able to be working member of the community.

Ohio has so far been on the cutting edge of protecting its consumers of prosthetic, orthotics and pedorthics. It will be a great tragedy if the state takes a step backwards instead of maintaining its lead.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to talk about these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Edward Vanasdale
