Ohio Orthotics and Prosthetics Association Regarding HB49 – Interested Party THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE June 7, 2017

Chairman Oelslager, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear this morning. I am here to make brief comments related to board consolidation action and the abolishment of the Ohio Board of Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics. (O P & P)

By now you know that the last-minute House version of HB49 summarily abolished the Board without meaningful consideration or due process.

As you now deliberate and make important decisions in the coming days, I respectfully urge you to support restoration of the Ohio Board of Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (OPP).

Please realize what elimination of O P & P licensure means in actual practice. This would open the door for <u>anyone</u> to represent themselves an orthotist, prosthetist or pedorthist, with no patient protection or recourse for patient complaint.

We don't know if the abolishment was an intentional policy decision but if so, I ask ... *why*?

Again, I respectfully urge you to restore language to assure basic standards for orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic care.

Respectfully,

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