



June 30, 2023

Eve Lee, MBA, CAE
Executive Director
American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association
330 John Carlyle Ave, #200
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Eve,

As you know, the Amputee Coalition is the only national nonprofit that serves all individuals who experience limb loss or limb difference. With our newly adapted vision: a world where our community thrives and mission to support, educate, and advocate for people impacted by limb loss and limb difference we recognize that partnership is our way forward. We congratulate you on the success and passing of H.R. 4315 and thank you for the opportunity to align missions for imperative work as leaders committed to impacting lives. As leaders dedicated to the larger vision, we know 4 million plus Americans are living with limb loss and limb difference.

The Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Patient-Centered Care Act includes critical provisions designed to improve access to prosthetic and orthotic care for Medicare beneficiaries living with limb loss or limb difference. We support the language in this bill, which would:

Remove barriers to access and improve comprehensive prosthetic and orthotic care by allowing certified O&P practitioners to provide off-the-shelf (OTS) orthoses to their patients during the course of treatment without a competitive bidding contract through an exemption like that currently in place for physical therapists, occupational therapists, and physicians. Access would be improved by eliminating the requirement for Medicare beneficiaries to visit multiple providers when in need of both a prosthesis and an OTS device, which are commonly prescribed together.

Reduce the likelihood of waste, fraud, and abuse by prohibiting “drop-shipment” of all custom-fitted and custom-fabricated orthoses and all prostheses to a Medicare beneficiary’s home without clinical intervention by a provider or supplier. This would result in significant cost-savings to the Medicare program while protecting patient access to clinical assessments, fittings, adjustments, and other related clinical care.

Eliminate delays for Medicare beneficiaries to receive necessary replacement custom-fitted or custom-fabricated orthoses, ensuring that patients have timely access if an ordering physician determines that the provision of a replacement orthosis is necessary due to a change in the physiological condition of the patient, an irreparable change in the condition of the orthosis, or the excessive cost of repairs. Since many individuals living with limb loss or limb difference require orthoses to support the non-amputated limb, delayed access to an appropriate replacement orthosis can severely impair an individual’s ability to ambulate.

The Amputee Coalition recognizes the critical importance of the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association mission and we support and appreciate the collaborative opportunities we will have in the future.

Respectfully,



Cass Isidro, MBA
President & Chief Executive Officer
Amputee Coalition

