



March 11, 2024

The Honorable Jessie Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Akilah Weber, MD
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1
1021 O Street, Room 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee 3
1021 O Street, Room 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: MCO Tax
Position: Request for Investment

Dear Chairs Ting, Skinner, Weber, and Menjivar:

On behalf of the Amputee Coalition and 47,000¹ Californians who experience an amputation or are born with limb difference in the State of California each year, we respectfully request the State to consider making necessary investments to increase access to orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) devices to improve equitable access for patients across the state.

Providers of orthotic and prosthetic services in the state, represented by the California Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (COPA), have reached out to our organization to highlight the challenges to access that patients are facing as a result of low reimbursement rates in orthotic and prosthetic patient care companies no longer accepted Medi-Cal patients at their facilities. We support COPA's efforts and respectfully request consideration of the suggested MCO tax investment and/or any other measure to rectify the unsustainable dynamic facing prosthetic and orthotic patients in California. We have included COPA's request letter for reference.

The Amputee Coalition was founded in 1986 to advocate and support people who experience limb loss and limb difference. We work to ensure all people are supported pre/post amputation and during recovery. Our organization also works to ensure that

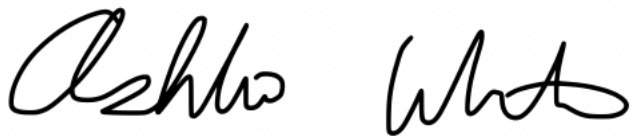
¹ 5.6 Million++ Americans are Living with Limb Loss and Limb Difference: New Study Published - Amputee Coalition. (2024, February 16). Amputee Coalition. <https://www.amputee-coalition.org/limb-loss-resource-center/over-5-million-americans-living-with-limb-loss-limb-difference/>

individuals have education and access to critical resources. We seek to improve the quality of life among the 5.6+ million Americans that have experienced limb loss or limb difference.

Certified prosthetists are masters-level educated clinicians and the services that they provide for patients who have limb loss and limb difference far exceed just the delivery of a device. Prosthetists provide services that restore function and allow individuals to return to their activities of daily living. O&P providers are not reimbursed for their time under the current reimbursement scheme. Payment is inclusive of every aspect of the episode of care, including the evaluation, casting and/or measuring, fitting, alignment, adjustments, delivery, and 90 days of follow-up. The value proposition for orthotic and prosthetic care is undeniable.

When these clinicians are incapable of covering their own expenses to provide the care and devices necessary to restore an individual's functional capability, the only option is to provide service as a charity or refrain from offering care to an already vulnerable patient population. Thus, causing inequitable access to healthcare services by Medi-Cal recipients.

The Amputee Coalition recognizes the critical importance of Medi-Cal services. Our organization is pleased to elaborate on these comments and appreciates the opportunity to share them.



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