



Florida Association of Orthotists and Prosthetists **Legislative Accomplishments**

Strengthening the Profession

Enacted the Licensure Act to provide state recognition of your profession on par with other allied medical professions, to create professional standards, and to reduce fraud and protect patients.

Added O&P practitioners to the list of covered medical professionals and facilities in Florida's Medical Malpractice Act enacted originally to protect physicians and hospitals.

Exempted O&P practitioners from the Medicaid surety bond requirement (\$50,000 per location) and various other provisions relating to your practice and business signage (public access/operation hours/single DME provider at address) required of other DME providers.

Revised O&P Practice Act to add new levels of licensure and allow for additional degrees to qualify for education requirements. Removed language that required collaboration with PTs, strengthened supervision requirements, and added resident registration requirements. Further revised the Act to enhance the profession as directed by the Association Board.

Ensured coverage of prostheses and orthoses by HMOs in Medicaid managed care expansion and in ACA compliant exchange policies in Florida.

Defending the Profession

Prevented Legislation by NOMA that would exempt manufacturer sales representatives from Orthotist license requirements and only require that the manufacturer sales representatives register with the state as an "orthotic supplier."

Defended against numerous attempts by NOMA and other brace manufacturers to carve out sales representatives from licensure requirements to allow them to evaluate and fit devices made by their manufacturer employer.

Defended Orthotists' scope of practice from being encroached into by PTs & OTs.

Defended against numerous attempts to grandfather into the Licensure Act certain unqualified practitioners.

Other Legislation/Miscellaneous Work

Negotiated and clarified multiple changes to the DME Medicaid Handbook related to the practice of O&P during handbook updates and policy changes. Added LCodes and revised benefit coverages to be more expansive for patients.

Revised proposed rules from the Department of Revenue to ensure that O&P professionals can continue to sell and manufacture devices free of Florida sales tax.

Successfully oversaw statutory relocation of the Pharmacist exemption to the practice of Orthotics by the Pharmacy Association to ensure it did not impact O&P practice.

Assisted the FAOP in organizing Insurance Billing Summits.

Worked with the Board of Nursing to clarify that the practice scope of a Certified Nursing Assistant does not include the practice of O&P.

Worked with the O&P Board to reduce practitioner renewal fees by \$200.

Visibility and Ongoing Issues

Enhanced visibility of the practice and the FAOP with FAOP Day at The Capitol during session.

Successfully maintained the integrity of the O&P practice as a separate profession and not as a component of other medical professions. Defeated Florida's DOGE effort to eliminate O&P regulation by practitioners.

Worked with the Department of Health and Medicaid fraud regarding fraud and the unlicensed practice of O&P.

Monitored, analyzed, and influenced numerous legislative healthcare initiatives to ensure there is no negative impact to the practice of O&P.

Responded to and answered individual FAOP member questions or requests for assistance.

Monitored regulatory issues, federal issues, legislative appropriations, and political contributions for the FAOP.