



American  
Orthotic &  
Prosthetic  
Association

# 2023 *Annual Report*



Eve Lee, MBA, CAE



2023 has been a busy and exciting year for AOPA. On behalf of the AOPA Board and staff, I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. In the following pages, we invite you to explore the milestones and achievements that have shaped our journey over the past year. As you review it, I hope that our commitment to our mission and vision our evident. It is that commitment that has propelled us toward significant progress in various initiatives. We could not do any of what we do without the support of our members, so thank you. Your dedication to your businesses and patients is inspiring. Looking ahead, we remain committed to our strategic vision and working for you.

Sincerely,

Eve Lee, MBA, CAE  
AOPA Executive Director



# Highlights

## Advocacy

### Federal level

- ▶ The Medicare O&P Patient-Centered Care Act (HB 4315) has been greatly improved upon and reintroduced in the United States House of Representatives. AOPA has garnered more support than ever before for this version of the legislation.
  - Introducing sponsor: Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA)
  - Our original co-sponsors: Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA), Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN), and Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX).
  - We are up to 30 co-sponsors in the house: 16 democrats and 14 republicans (as of Nov. 27, 2023)
- ▶ Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) is the champion of the bill in the Senate, along with Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT).
  - We continue to work towards introduction in the senate and hope to see it happen in the coming months.
- ▶ One of the most important provisions of the bill seeks to eliminate the five-year reasonable useful lifetime restriction on custom-fitted and custom-fabricated orthoses.
- ▶ AOPA continues to reach out to committees and sub-committees in congress to expand the support network for the bill.

### State level

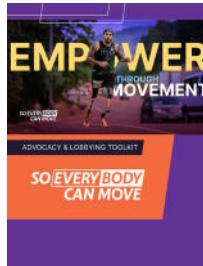
- ▶ Insurance fairness was reimplemented in the state of Oregon (Senate Bill 797). AOPA served on an advisory committee to ensure that these guidelines were correctly worded and implemented. 
- ▶ A small but mighty group in Texas has begun looking into improving the Texas Medicaid system. Currently, enrollees over the age of twenty-one cannot access O&P coverage. Texas is also facing cranial remodeling issues. Insurance laws currently cover synostosis, but not plagiocephaly. AOPA will continue to serve and advise Texas advocates in their mission to create equitable coverage for all Texans. 



## State level (Continued)

► Launched in July 2022, the *So Every BODY Can Move* (formerly *So Kids Can Move*) state-level legislative initiative has seen incredible success in just a year, rapidly advancing O&P coverage policy for prostheses and orthoses necessary for physical activity. The name change, from *So Kids Can Move* to *So Every BODY Can Move*, was a natural progression thanks to the success of our grassroots advocates expanding the scope of their bills to include consumers of **all ages**.

- Legislation has now been **enacted in five states** including, in order, Maine (LD 1003), New Mexico (HB 131), Arkansas (HB 1252), Colorado (HB 1136), and Illinois (SB 2195).
- An additional **five states introduced** *So Every BODY Can Move* legislation in 2023 and are working toward passage in 2024, including Indiana (HB 1433), Massachusetts (H 4096), Minnesota (HF 3339/SF 3351), New Jersey (SB 3919), and New Hampshire (SB 177).
- Approximately **18 additional states intend to follow suit**. This puts us well on the way to #28by28, a goal that aims to see legislation in 28 states to coincide with the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.
- To help meet this demand and support the growing number of grassroots advocates, the **So Every BODY Can Move Advocacy & Lobbying Toolkit** along with the corresponding **Resource Folder** were created.
- Over 150+ Lead Advocates have been recruited over the past year, representing 35 U.S. States, and meet monthly for an initiative-wide update call.
- *So Every BODY Can Move* partnered with global running brand, On, and their social impact program Right To Run to raise awareness and funds through a team of adaptive athletes running the renowned Hood To Coast Relay. Thanks to On's sponsorship and the team's fundraising, they raised over \$75,000 for the initiative.
- Thanks to our generous donors and supporters, over \$104,000 has been raised for *So Every BODY Can Move* this year! These funds are being funneled back into the initiative to support critical resources and continued growth.
- *So Every BODY Can Move* is the result of a collaboration between AOPA, the Amputee Coalition, the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP), and the National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics (NAAOP).



► Want monthly updates about state advocacy? Manager of State and Federal Advocacy Sam Miller continues to provide AOPA's Monthly State Policy Forecast!

- <https://www.youtube.com/@aopanet/videos>



# Regulatory

## Federal Level

- ▶ Our Director of Health Policy and Advocacy, Joe McTernan, details the major regulatory strides made by AOPA this year: "AOPA staff continues to develop collaborative relationships with both CMS, the DME MAC, and PDAC contractors. AOPA Staff is actively serving on advisory councils for each of the 4 DME MAC jurisdictions and are in regular contact with the DME MAC and PDAC medical directors and DME MAC provider outreach and education representatives."



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- ▶ In September, AOPA submitted a request for Knee Orthosis LCD Reconsideration. The DME MACs have deemed this request valid and will now review the request to determine if the LCD will be revised to include coverage criteria for osteoarthritis braces where joint laxity is not present.
- ▶ AOPA was instrumental in the rescission of the Medicare correct guidance for upper extremity prostheses.

## State Level

- ▶ For the first time in almost twenty years, the state of New York updated their Medicaid fee schedule. This resulted in the addition of thirty-five HCPCS codes.
- ▶ The state of Indiana also updated their Medicaid fee schedule. DMEPOS codes are now reimbursed at 100% of 2023 Medicare rates. Visit <https://aopanet.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/AOPA/pages/20336809/Indiana>.
- ▶ North Carolina Medicaid policy on cranial remodeling is nearly complete. AOPA's Cranial Remodeling Orthoses Workgroup helped to create a guideline that can be distributed to other states interested in enacting similar policies.
- ▶ AOPA continues to advocate for the updating of Medicaid fee schedules in several states including Florida, Ohio, and New York.
- ▶ Stay up to date on the regulatory issues you want to hear about! Joe McTernan provides a monthly vlog entitled "AOPA's Take." Visit <https://www.youtube.com/@aopanet/videos>.



## Education

- ▶ At this year's assembly, AOPA celebrated the first graduating class of the Hartford University Certificate in O&P Business Management Program.
- ▶ We had a huge turnout for the virtual component of our 2023 AOPA National Assembly: Driving Innovation. AOPA continues to drive innovation by exploring new ways to provide education and information to our members in new and exciting ways to keep up with the ever-changing industry of O&P.

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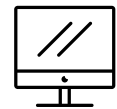
## Research

- ▶ This year, AOPA collaborated with Sage Journals to create a public archive for our members' research abstracts. This allows members to publish their articles and papers to this open access journal at a reduced cost.
- ▶ AOPA's Socket Guidance Workgroup published two white papers in February of this year: An Editorial entitled "Toward standardized methods for prosthetic socket mechanical testing," and a Discussion Paper entitled "Mechanical testing of transtibial prosthetic sockets: A discussion paper from the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association Socket Guidance Workgroup."

## Exciting Changes

AOPA is working hard to keep up with industry change. We are always looking to expand and improve upon the benefits package each facility receives as a member of AOPA:

- ▶ Our AOPA Small Business MasterCard is launching in 2024.
  - The card will be launching in January of 2024
  - It features low interest rates, and cashback on certain purchases.
- ▶ We will continue to offer the UPS Affinity Program, which provides member facilities with discounted shipping and postage costs.
- ▶ We are working to bring you the most up to date information regarding the AOPA Affinity Health Plan. This comprehensive plan is designed specifically with our members in mind.
- ▶ Our *So Every BODY Can Move* website will launch in early 2024!
- ▶ By the end of 2024, AOPA will introduce our new, reimagined member portal. Our portal redesign aims to improve member experience and expand access to member benefits.



## Where to Go to Stay in the Know

- ▶ **AOPA's Take and State Policy Forecast**
  - <https://www.youtube.com/@aopanet/videos>
- ▶ **White Papers**
  - [https://journals.lww.com/poijournal/Fulltext/9900/Mechanical\\_testing\\_of\\_transtibial\\_prosthetic.112.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/poijournal/Fulltext/9900/Mechanical_testing_of_transtibial_prosthetic.112.aspx)
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- ▶ **O&P Almanac**
  - <https://www.aopanet.org/publications/op-almanac-magazine/>
- ▶ **Smart Brief**
  - <https://www.aopanet.org/publications/aopa-in-advance-smartbrief/>
- ▶ **Co-Op**
  - <https://aopanet.org/resources/co-op/>



Thank you for joining AOPA, the trade association for orthotics and prosthetics.

[www.AOPAnet.org](http://www.AOPAnet.org)

