Date: March 11, 2016

Re: HF 2344 / SF 1368 An Act to License Orthotists, Prosthetists & Pedorthists

Dear: Minnesota State Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

The intention of this letter is to request your support regarding the Orthotists, Prosthetists & Pedorthists (O, P&P) Licensure Bill. These are providers of professional care related to physician-prescribed artificial limbs and body braces. As an owner and/or a practicing orthotist/prosthetist/pedorthist of a Minnesota-based O, P&P company, I ask that you review this legislation and vote in its favor.

This licensure act intends to regulate these practitioners by requiring licensure to practice in the State of Minnesota. This licensure is important for these main reasons:

• Prevent irreparable harm to patients, the consumers;

• Establish minimal standards of education and training required for professional competency of orthotists, prosthetists, and pedorthists;

• Provide an avenue for the public to seek remedy from any harm;

• Create a statutory distinction in the State of Minnesota separating the O, P, & P professionals from the providers of supplies and devices collectively known as durable medical equipment; and

• Correct a problem that exists in the federal language by enacting state law to define the qualifications needed by professionals to provide this care.

In addition, the citizens of Minnesota require orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic devices to:

* Lead independent, productive lives;
* Function at work and be tax-paying citizens;
* Care for their families;
* Reach their maximum level of function;
* Improve their quality of life;
* Treat conditions of weakness and deformity; and
* Treat amputation due to trauma, disease, or limb absence due to conditions of birth.

Please see the attached White Paper for more specifics regarding the importance of passing O, P&P licensure in the State of Minnesota. Please feel free to contact me directly should you have questions.

Kind regards,