



New York State Chapter of American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists

NYSAAOP 1659 Lincoln Ave., Bohemia, NY 11716-1415

Memorandum of Support **A.8105 (Bradley) / S.3848 (Flanagan)**

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating the profession of orthotics, prosthetic and pedorthic practice

The New York State Chapter of American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists **SUPPORTS** the passage of Assembly bill A.8105/S.3848, which will provide for the licensing of Orthotists, Prosthetists and Pedorthists by the State Board of Orthotists, Prosthetists and Pedorthists, establish said State Board of Orthotists, Prosthetists and Pedorthists within the Department of Education and to add a new Article 167 of the Education Law.

The New York State Chapter of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists represents more than 300 practicing Orthotists, Prosthetists and affiliated member companies and vendors throughout New York State.

Twelve other states presently require a license to practice orthotics, prosthetics and/or pedorthics, including Florida, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, Texas, and most recently Arkansas.

Although there are a number of federal laws regulating prosthetic, orthotic and pedorthic devices, none protect the consumer from incompetent or unscrupulous practitioners. Under Title 21, Chapter 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act addresses prosthetic and orthotic devices within the provisions of Subchapter V (Drugs and Devices). As a result of this statutory framework, the consumer is left to seek redress for any wrongs committed by an unscrupulous or incompetent practitioner in the courts.

The need to provide the public with a means of identifying qualified practitioners is more compelling today than ever before. This critical need continues to grow dramatically with each passing year, as the field grows ever more sophisticated and broadly utilized, resulting in ever greater public exposure to the potential for serious physical, emotional, and financial harm.