



TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Mario M. Scavello

DATE: December 27, 2010

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Licensing of Prosthetists, Orthotists, Pedorthists and Orthotic Fitters with the State Board of Medicine (Former HB 255)

Soon I will be introducing legislation that requires individuals practicing prosthetics, orthotics and/or pedorthics, and orthotic fitting* to be licensed with the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine. The Board will be responsible for regulating these professions and licensing qualified candidates. Please know this legislation will not have an impact on the General Fund of the Commonwealth as it will be funded solely from fees and fines collected by the Board.

Several constituents have shared their difficult experiences with me. Presently, the competence of these unregulated practitioners varies widely. An improperly fitted prosthesis or other custom-fitted device can impair a person's ability to function optimally. The pain experienced from not being fitted appropriately creates a situation where the individual ends up having to live without the necessary device.

Additionally, high tech prosthetics and other devices have created a strong immediate need for oversight of those providing prosthetic, orthotic and pedorthic services.

Licensure assures the public that the licensed practitioner has met certain standards to practice his or her profession with a high degree of skill and diligence. Also, aggrieved or injured individuals will have a state board with which to file complaints against unscrupulous or incompetent practitioners and the state will be able to put dishonest, fraudulent or incompetent individuals out of business.

I have introduced similar legislation in past sessions. Over the years, under the auspices of the Professional Licensure Committee we have fine tuned the language. Hopefully the General Assembly will act quickly this session because since the summer of 2009 our constituents practicing in these fields have been required by the Center for Medicare Services to post a surety