

# State Board of Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics



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**JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR**  
WILLIAM C. NEU, III, LPO, BOARD PRESIDENT

## Director Testifies in Support of Budget Recommendations, Professions

Board Director Mark Levy gave the agency's testimony to a Subcommittee of the Ohio House Finance and Appropriations Committee Wednesday 02/20/2013, in support of the agency's full funding recommendation in the budget bill, HB 59.

In addition to a review of challenges and program initiatives, Levy testified in support of the professions regulated by the Board.

"There is a policy gap in the manner in which O&P services are regulated by CMS and by extension Medicaid and other third-party payers, exacerbated by the accounting and accountability standards that accompany the regulatory framework," he said. "This gap is fostered by the continuing inclusion of Orthotic and Prosthetic consumer care specialists – whose education and training orient them toward a clinical service delivery model and outcome-based objectives – within the realm of Durable Medical Equipment (DMEPOS) generally."

"O&P Practitioners engage in consultative, patient-focused device specialization and customization. They are being squeezed between market forces and regulatory measures that seek to lower the cost of service delivery without recognizing the professional time and intimate involvement with patient care in which these rehabilitation professionals engage on a daily basis."

Levy urged the legislators' support of agency funding, and asked for consideration of a working proposal to overhaul the governing statutory authority. "The Practice Act authorizing this agency's operations and establishing licensure in these fields is twelve (12) years old and in need of revision."

He noted the strong footprint the O&P sector claims in Ohio, from major manufacturers and distributors, to local facilities populated by regional market leaders, nationally-known service providers, and locally based independent practitioners and facilities.