

TESTIMONY OF RANDY STEVENS

ON BEHALF OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS SOCIETY (POPS)

BEFORE THE HOUSE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE REGARDING HB 2015 AND THE NEED FOR LICENSURE OF THE O & P PROFESSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008
418 Main Capitol Building

Good morning Chairman Sturla and members of the Committee. My name is Randy Stevens and I am the sole proprietor of Randy Stevens Family Footcare here in Harrisburg. I am credentialed through the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABC) as a Certified Pedorthist (C.Ped), credentialed through the Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification (BOC) as a BOC Pedorthist, credentialed through the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABC) as a Certified Fitter of Orthotics (CFo) and I am a member of POPS.

Additionally, I am a member of the Pedorthic Footwear Association in which I serve as the President, am also the Chairman of the Government Relations Committee and the Chairman of PFA's Coding/Insurance and Third Party Payers Committee. As Chairman of PFA's Government Relations Committee, I am active in participating in legislative and regulatory issues at the federal and state levels.

Today, I am here to speak and gain your support regarding the Licensure of Orthotics, Prosthetics, Orthotic Fitters and Pedorthics in the state. But first, I would like to start off by saying; I support and am in agreement with HB 2015 and the amendments that were made to HB 2015. In order to fully explain and understand this issue I am going to talk about some national efforts regarding licensure and also some reasoning behind my strong beliefs in the need for licensure for the O,P & P professions.

To help in my explanation regarding the national efforts currently there are 11 states that have some sort of licensure in regards to prosthetics, orthotics and/or pedorthics. There are also currently four other states that are actively pursuing licensure of prosthetics, orthotics and/or pedorthics. The National Suppliers Clearinghouse (NSC) also recognizes licensure in CR3959 which was implemented in October of 2005 and in the proposed enrollment requirements for Durable Medical Equipment and Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS). Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, licensure is important not only to the people living throughout Pennsylvania and in your representative districts, but also to our patients that we see on an everyday basis. Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, it is being heard by my patients that my profession is the only non-MD medical profession which is currently not licensed in Pennsylvania and providing services to Medicaid, Medicare, Third Party Payers and

Private Pay beneficiaries/patients. Again, the profession of orthotics, prosthetics, orthotic fitters and pedorthics is the only non-MD medical profession which is currently not licensed in Pennsylvania.

To further illustrate Mr. Chairman, I would like to say in the current practice settings in Pennsylvania today I have experienced those being hired around me having NO patient care or clinical experiences signing onto companies that would guarantee them employment if they would become certified within two years. I had worked with an individual who was a ski instructor and fit ski boots in the Scranton/Wilksbare area, had no experience and was paired with an orthotist to see patients in the office, taken into hospitals, rehab centers and nursing homes in the Harrisburg area and given on the job training. The patient care population should not be used to gain knowledge so one can become certified, but should be obtained through competencies and education so one can treat the patient care population here in PA. Licensure ensures that the beneficiaries of orthotic, prosthetic, orthotic fitter and pedorthic services here in Pennsylvania will have the appropriate education and training to provide treatment to those beneficiaries that receive patient care treatment with the use of orthotic, prosthetic, and pedorthic modalities. By initiating licensure here in Pennsylvania, it would make the practitioners obtain the necessary education and training to treat the patients here in Pennsylvania, rather than using the patient or the individual that one is treating as ones education in order to provide treatment to those patients here today. The beneficiaries and the residents of PA that receive treatment from an O,P&P provider deserve to know that because of thorough licensure, the practitioner that is treating them had appropriate education and training prior to treating them.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you Chairman Sturla, and members of the committee for giving members of POPS the opportunity to speak today. Please remember one thing: this is all about providing quality patient care and the protection of those patients who receive prosthetic, orthotic, orthotic fitter and pedorthic services. Pennsylvanians deserve the best care that we can give them and House Bill 2015 would accomplish this. I ask you to vote YES for the passage of HB 2015 and give Pennsylvanians who have O,P&P disabilities the assurances they need to have a successful future.

Thank you and I would like to introduce Mr. Ace Plyley, a patient of mine that would like to talk to you regarding his experiences with the O&P profession and also his thoughts on the need for licensure in the state.