Whereas, pediatric patients with musculoskeletal and/or neuromuscular disorders frequently require lower extremity orthoses to help with their mobility, maximize their function, and prevent contractures; and

Whereas, an orthosis or orthotic device is defined by the International Standards Organization as an externally applied device used to modify the structural and functional characteristics of the neuromuscular and skeletal system; and

Whereas, shoes that work with lower extremity orthoses are an essential component of the orthotic intervention; and

Whereas, one of the goals when choosing the orthoses is to optimize forces and moments acting on bones, ligaments, and joints during standing and walking to allow for the most natural gait; and

Whereas, the orthoses will not normalize the gait to the best potential without proper footwear; and

Whereas, there are some shoe options on the market that are deep and roomy enough to accommodate braces which eliminates the need for custom shoes for most patients; and

Whereas, the commercially available shoes may require external modifications, such as for leg length discrepancy or plantar flexion contracture, which require foot elevation or an external heel lift respectively; and

Whereas, patients with severe hypotonia, calcaneus feet, and severe crouch using solid ankle-foot orthoses (AFOs) to ambulate require shoes with a stiff sole, custom rocker, and heel lever to maintain consistent roll over to imitate the natural rocking motion of gait; and

Whereas, those shoe modifications are relatively inexpensive and in the skilled hands of an orthotist are easy to accomplish; and

Whereas, insurance coverage for shoes to use with orthoses as well as shoe modifications is limited or nonexistent; and

Whereas, this creates a burden on the patients and families and makes the providers more hesitant to recommend the shoe modifications despite being medically indicated; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support coverage by all private and
government insurance companies for pediatric footwear suitable for use with lower extremity
orthoses and medically necessary shoe modifications. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than $1,000

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REFERENCES

