



The Helping Ensure Life- and Limb-Saving Access to Podiatric Physicians (HELLPP) Act

-The HELLPP Act will be introduced in the 116th Congress soon by Rep. Diana DeGette and Rep. Bill Johnson. This bi-partisan, commonsense piece of legislation would improve Medicare and Medicaid health outcomes, enhance patient choices, and actually reduce the federal budget deficit.

-There are three main components to the bill which can be found below:

1. Recognizing podiatrists as physicians under Medicaid—For more than 40 years, Medicare has defined doctors of podiatric medicine (DPMs, or podiatrists) as “physicians.” But this is not the case in Medicaid. Access to medical and surgical foot and ankle care *provided by a podiatrist* is considered optional and is not covered by all state plans, thus limiting Medicaid patient access to specialized foot and ankle medical and surgical care.

2. Clarifying and improving coordination of care in Medicare's Therapeutic Shoe Program for patients with diabetes—The current processes and Medicare contractor requirements for determining eligibility for Medicare's Therapeutic Shoe Program for patients with diabetes, and for furnishing this medically necessary benefit, are unnecessarily burdensome and frequently bogged down, leading to frustration on the part of the certifying physician, prescribing doctor, and supplier. The clarifications in the legislation would remove confusion and regulatory inconsistencies in the provision of this medically necessary benefit. They would allow each member of the collaborative team—MD/DO, DPM, and supplier—to work together more effectively and seamlessly on behalf of diabetic patients, resulting in less patient confusion, less provider frustration, and fewer office visits for the Medicare system.

3. Strengthening Medicaid program integrity through a fiscally responsible budget offset—By closing a loophole that allows tax-delinquent Medicaid providers to still receive full Medicaid reimbursements, this provision will save the Medicaid system money and more than offset any additional federal budget costs associated with the recognition of podiatrists as physicians under Medicaid. Such a mechanism already exists in Medicare so this could save billions of dollars for the public health-care system.



APMA eAdvocacy login instructions

1. Login using apma.org/eadvocacy . You CANNOT use a direct link as it will cause confusion in the system and send letters from 1 account instead of individually, so to avoid any confusion, ONLY USE apma.org/eadvocacy .
2. After entering in apma.org/eadvocacy , instruct them to either login using Facebook OR to enter in some brief information to register for the website. You DO NOT need Facebook to participate in eAdvocacy campaigns, and can enter in your information to participate if you do not have or do not want to use Facebook.
3. After registering, select a live campaign (***"Students for the HELLPP Act"***) to write multiple members of congress at once, click my legislators and select a member to see information about them and how to contact their offices, log an interaction you may have had with a representative so it can help APMA staff build legislative relationships, or finally try the my relationship feature to inform APMA of a relationship you may have with a representative.
4. When participating in a campaign (***"Students for the HELLPP Act"***) the letter will appear. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Send All Letters." This feature will allow you to send letters to multiple representatives with 1 click. Only one of your representatives names will appear at the top of the letter, however it is sending the same letter to multiple representatives. *(If you would like to see who the letter is being sent to, click the drop down arrow next to the name of the representative and the other members names who are receiving the same letter will appear).*
5. After participating in campaign, please instruct your members to participate in any other campaigns APMA currently has. **I would also stress to get in the habit of logging into the APMA eAdvocacy portal weekly to resend their letters to their representatives to ensure the message is being heard.**
6. Lastly, I would also recommend highlighting the importance of contributing to APMAPAC, as donations are vital to the continued success of the profession.