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**American Orthotic &  
Prosthetic Association**

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## **Compassionate Access to Artificial Limbs for Uninsured/Underinsured Amputee Victims of Boston Marathon Bombing**

### **Formation of the Coalition to Walk & Run Again**

All Americans are experiencing the shock of the Boston Marathon bombing, coupled with the desire to assist the innocent victims of this senseless violence and mayhem. As the certified prosthetists and orthotists who practice in patient care facilities and the orthotic and prosthetic manufacturers who develop the technology and create the components for artificial limbs and customized bracing that restore mobility, we are in a unique position to offer needed assistance.

We understand that all who required an amputation as a result of the injuries they sustained from the Boston Marathon bombing have received high quality trauma and surgical treatment by first responders and the incomparable clinical personnel residing in Massachusetts' hospitals. In some cases, there is a need for subsequent specialized care to help these patients in their recovery. Some of the victims have the insurance or other financial means to afford the cost of replacement artificial limbs, customized bracing and other mobility aids, and the patient care needed to empower their use. But it appears that many of the victims, some from Massachusetts and others from diverse locations outside the metro area, may not have any health insurance or may have health insurance plans that will not assure access to the needed limbs and mobility assistive devices.

Working in conjunction with the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA), their national association, the professional prosthetists and orthotists who fabricate artificial limbs and related mobility aids and the manufacturers of the sophisticated component technology required to create these replacement limbs have established a coalition to assure that all victims "will walk and run again." This new coalition, working with AOPA and others, is committed to assuring the availability of appropriate patient care as well as artificial limbs and other mobility devices on a compassionate access basis for those Boston Marathon bombing victims who otherwise may not have access to these devices and patient care.

### **SCOPE**

The coalition will seek to use its national network to facilitate care for any Boston Marathon bombing victim for their prosthetic and orthotic needs (excluding physician and hospital costs), with the sole prerequisite being receipt of a letter from the victim's physician indicating that the patient was injured in the Marathon bombing, describing the specific needs of the patient, geographic information, and attesting that the patient's insurance coverage is insufficient to meet the costs of the prosthetic/orthotic care the patient needs.

## **ELIGIBILITY/CONTACT**

Communications from physicians and inquiries from patients and others should be directed to Stephen Custer in the AOPA offices at [scuster@aopanet.org](mailto:scuster@aopanet.org) or at 571-431-0876,

If the patient has a certified orthotist/prosthetist, that person should work with the patient's physician to develop a prescription and detailed work order that specifies the componentry required. A copy of that prescription should accompany the request for assistance. In that instance, the coalition will endeavor to secure -- without cost to the patient -- the specific requested clinical services including the componentry, or as close to the prescription as possible.

If the patient does not have a certified orthotist/prosthetist, the coalition will be pleased to identify a person who can render the needed care up to and including delivering the device to the patient, the requisite fitting, patient training and such related care that is needed. As above, the orthotist/prosthetist can secure assistance from the coalition that will facilitate securing the componentry without cost to the patient.

The AOPA Coalition expresses its appreciation to the Amputee Coalition, the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists, and the National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics for their kind assistance. AOPA will publicize the availability of these services and devices to: Massachusetts hospitals and surgery departments, public officials, One Fund Boston and other support agencies and the Amputee Coalition.

The Coalition welcomes any assistance from companies, media, churches or others in building awareness about this coalition, and encourages anyone to disseminate this information to others who can help in advancing awareness. Likewise, if individuals or corporations would like to join in supporting this effort, the coalition welcomes their assistance.

Finally, we extend our prayers and best wishes to all persons injured as a result of the Boston Marathon bombing for a full and complete recovery to health, mobility and restored function, employment, and family life.