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Dear COPA Members,

Thank you for your continued support. I would like to publicly thank the members who have taken the initiative to renew their membership. If you haven't, please reach out to us directly. Your support helps maintain COPA's legislative efforts and our fundamental mission of providing a unified voice for providers of O&P care, products and services to patients in California.

COPA continues to focus its efforts on passing a bill to provide individuals with limb loss and limb difference access to prosthetic and custom orthotic devices that will allow them to engage in physical activity beyond their activities of daily living. We strongly believe that movement is medicine. In a world that is increasingly more sedentary, the population we serve is at an increased risk for leading a sedentary lifestyle. Regular physical activity like hiking, running, weightlifting, etc. has been positively associated with improvements in mood, memory, focus and sleep. Beyond cognitive benefits, regular physical activity has also been shown to improve cardiovascular health and improve immune system function and regulate blood sugar by improving the function of the participants' endocrine system. Lastly, and probably most importantly, regular physical activity has been shown to have a positive effect on quality of life and a reduction in overall long-term healthcare costs. When seen through this lens, that prosthesis or custom orthotic device that allows a person to participate in avocational activities is an investment in that individual's health and well-being. COPA is focused on sharing this message through its strong network of advocates at an upcoming lobby day in Sacramento. To assist in this effort please do the following. **1.** Become a COPA member. **2.** If you or one of your patients wishes to participate as an advocate, please sign up to attend our bi-weekly advocate calls. **3.** Schedule an on-site visit with your local Assemblymember and invite a COPA Board member. Show them what you do and share with them your passion for providing patient care.

Together, we will continue strengthening our advocacy efforts, expanding educational opportunities, and fostering a stronger community within our membership. We each know the profound effect our work has on the lives of our patients. COPA will continue advocating and showcasing the importance of our profession in the Golden State.

I look forward to continue serving you as COPA President and sincerely thank you for trusting me to do so.

With gratitude,

Luis Mora

Luis Mora, CP
Össur Americas
COPA President

2026 COPA SYMPOSIUM
Designing Tomorrow's O&P:
Innovation That Transforms Lives
NOVEMBER 12 - 13, 2026

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California Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

Designing Tomorrow's O&P: Innovation That Transforms Lives

2026 COPA SYMPOSIUM



THU - FRI • NOVEMBER 12 - 13

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Speaking Opportunities at the 2026 COPA Symposium

COPA is proud to announce that our two-day **Annual 2026 COPA Symposium** will be returning to **Challenged Athletes Foundation** at 9591 Waples St, San Diego, CA on **Thursday & Friday, November 12 & 13**. Thank you to Challenged Athletes Foundation for hosting our event again this year.

This year, the COPA Symposium centers on the theme: **Designing Tomorrow's O&P: Innovation that Transforms Lives**. We are now accepting presentation submissions for the symposium from qualified professionals in our community. This symposium offers keynote presentation and seminars with Continuing Education credits as well as opportunities for exhibitors to showcase their products or technology and interact with attendees.

The deadline for presentation submission is **May 15, 2026**. Interested parties may submit your presentation proposal using the online form on our website: californiaoandp.com/speakers-submissions-for-symposium-2026/ or email us at admin@californiaoandp.com. Our committee will reach out to you for more details.

Whether you're seeking CEUs, curious about the latest trends and technologies, or eager to network with fellow O&P professionals, this is an event you won't want to miss. Mark your calendar and plan ahead to attend this major O&P education event in the west coast. Visit our website, californiaoandp.com, to stay tuned for more event information.

Scenes from 2025 COPA Symposium.

SO EVERY BODY CAN MOVE CALIFORNIA

by Annika Berlin, Grassroots Advocacy
Manager, So Every BODY Can Move



Update from So Every BODY Can Move California

Momentum around So Every BODY Can Move California continues to build. Since the COPA Conference, our coalition has continued to grow as clinicians, advocates, and families across the state come together to push for better access to prosthetic and orthotic care.

As we've continued conversations with our lobbyist team and partners in Sacramento, we've made a strategic decision about the timeline for introducing SEBCM legislation. Because the California Legislature operates on a two-year legislative cycle, and we are currently in the final year of that cycle, the window to successfully move a new healthcare coverage bill this year is extremely limited. In addition, the current state budget environment and impacts from federal policy changes, including H.R. 1, have created a landscape where committees are not advancing new healthcare coverage expansion bills this session.

For these reasons, our team will introduce So Every BODY Can Move legislation at the start of the 2027–2028 legislative session, giving us a full two-year cycle to move the bill and build strong statewide support.

In the meantime, our focus this year is education and coalition building across California. We are working to socialize the bill by helping legislators, clinicians, and community members better understand orthotic and prosthetic care, why access to movement matters, and the real stories behind this work.

Patrick, an adaptive endurance athlete from San Rafael who lost his leg in a commuting accident in 2020, shared: "Movement is how I rebuilt my life. Endurance sport taught me that resilience is trained and that limits are often just untested assumptions. Every mile is proof we are capable of more than we think."

Jennifer, an advocate from San Diego who lost her leg to cancer in 2024, shared: "Movement to me is life. It connects me to myself, my health, and my body. When I am moving freely in my body as I want to, I feel alive."

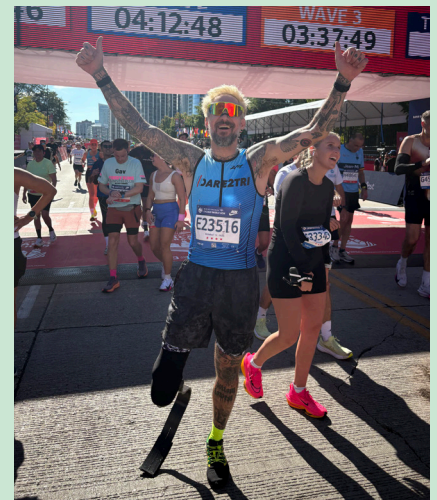
Stories like these are the heart of this movement. Over the coming year, we will continue amplifying voices from across California while growing a strong coalition of clinicians, advocates, and families.

We are also planning an Advocacy Day in Sacramento this April, where community members will meet with legislators to share their experiences and begin building the relationships needed to move this legislation forward in 2027.

Want to stay involved?

- Fill out our SEBCM California [interest form](#) to receive coalition updates and Advocacy Day details.
- Follow @SoEveryBODYCanMoveCA on Instagram to see stories and updates from advocates across the state.

Together, we are laying the groundwork now to ensure Californians with limb loss and limb difference have access to the prosthetic and orthotic care they need to move.



Patrick Wingert, SEBCM Advocate



Jennifer Nascimento, SEBCM Advocate



Shine, SEBCM Advocate



Zoey, SEBCM Advocate



Announcing COPA's New Lobbying Team

COPA is excited to announce our **new lobbying team, Political Solutions**, engaged to strengthen our voice and deepen our relationship with policymakers and stakeholders. This dedicated group brings together experienced advocates and policy experts who will work to advance our priorities, build meaningful relationships with decision-makers, and ensure that the perspectives of our community are clearly represented in key legislative and regulatory discussions.

Conceived in 2003 with a modest \$100 investment, Political Solutions has rapidly evolved into one of the Capitol's preeminent lobbying firms. The visionary partners established the firm with the ambitious goal of providing clients with an exceptionally high level of service and a more effective approach to doing business in California. Political Solutions employs a unique and distinctive team-based lobbying strategy which greatly benefits clients by enabling them to leverage the unparalleled expertise and robust relationships of each team member, in order to skillfully navigate the complex intricacies of California's legislative process. In addition to lobbying services in Sacramento, Political Solutions extends its consulting expertise in Washington, DC, where California's Congressional delegation includes several former state Assemblymembers and Senators. The firm deftly assists clients in formulating strategic initiatives, building relationships, and enhancing their profile as a means to achieving their objectives at the federal level. In 2006, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) certified Political Solutions as a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE), making it the largest women-owned lobbying firm in California.

COPA's Lobbying Team:



Kristin Beard King, Founding Partner

Kristin Beard King is a founding partner of Political Solutions. A Sacramento native and the fourth generation in her family to work in California's Capitol, she brings not only a current view of the political landscape but also an unrivaled historical perspective and

knowledge to her clients.

With experience spanning the private and public sectors, Ms. Beard King has worked for over two decades as a lobbyist for diverse interests, lobbying the California Legislature, administration, state agencies, as well as local departments and officials. Prior to joining the private sector, Ms. Beard King was a principal aide to Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown during the 1990s. She was his chief liaison between Administration officials, legislative offices, and influential advocates across California.

Ms. Beard King holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and American Studies from the University of Oregon. She is also a graduate of University of Southern California's Political Management Program, and has served on the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy Sacramento Advisory Board as well as currently serving on the Sacramento SPCA Board of Directors.



Erin Taylor, Associate Partner

Ms. Taylor was named Associate Partner in 2021. She joined the Political Solutions team in 2017 and has focused her advocacy efforts on a range of issues including early education and health care. She has focused her

representation on clients such as the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, the Girl Scouts of California, Parity for Pumps (P4P), the CA Coalition for Early Learning (CEEL), the CA Dental Association, hospital systems, as well as others. Her policy passion is focused on directing, supporting and uplifting initiatives impacting the health, education, socioeconomic wellbeing, and future outlook of women and families.

Her experience with the firm includes work on the state budget, coalition building, regulatory conformity, as well as advancing client interests through legislative proposals. With more than two decades of experience in the political and advocacy arena, including work on many campaigns, as well as grassroots advocacy efforts with several organizations, Erin has honed a style all her own, concentrating on open communication in a strategic, results-driven process on behalf of clients.

In addition to her advocacy work, Ms. Taylor also directs client communications for the firm, working with the Partners and fellow advocates to ensure timely, effective and accurate information is being disseminated to clients on a regular basis. Ms. Taylor also leads the firm's event efforts, partnering with clients, political consultants and venues around the state to provide opportunities for clients to engage with Legislators. Additionally, Ms. Taylor advises the firm's clients on political issues, as well as provides guidance on matters related to FPPC compliance.

Beyond her official work for Political Solutions, Ms. Taylor is an active member of the Sacramento community, supporting several local non-profits in a variety of roles. She also enjoys spending time with her partner, Brad, and young daughter, Ella, exploring new cultures on travel adventures around the world, honing her craft as a writer and practicing yoga.

Ms. Taylor graduated with a degree in Government from California State University, Sacramento.



Chloe King, Associate Lobbyist

Ms. King is an Associate Lobbyist at Political Solutions, where she advocates for clients across a range of policy areas with a focus on water, local government, and health and human services. Since joining the firm in 2022, she has built a strong foundation in legislative strategy and policy development, beginning her tenure as an intern before advancing to the role of legislative analyst.

Her academic background includes a Master of Public Health from the University of San Francisco, where she concentrated on health policy and leadership. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Loyola Marymount University, equipping her with a strong scientific and analytical foundation that complements her policy expertise. With a passion for advancing evidence-based solutions and meaningful policy change, Ms. King brings a collaborative and informed approach to her work with clients, stakeholders, and legislative partners.



Responsible AI Use in O&P: Practical Guardrails for Clinicians

By Katie Janiszewski MSOP, CPO,
Co-Founder of Align Medical Media

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology that allows computers to learn, analyze data, and solve problems—often much faster than humans. It can process massive amounts of information in seconds, spotting patterns and trends that would take people much longer to recognize. This ability makes AI a powerful tool in many industries, including orthotics and prosthetics. From improving clinic efficiency to advancing prosthetic design, AI is transforming both patient care and daily workflows.

In O&P clinics, AI is streamlining administrative tasks, allowing practitioners to focus more on patient care. One major benefit is in documentation—AI software like O&P Assist, can assist with writing chart notes, summarizing physician documentation, and organizing patient history. Some tools even scan referrals, extract key details, and flag missing information, reducing paperwork and the risk of errors.

Beyond documentation, AI-powered tools like ChatGPT are also being used to draft office policies, marketing materials, and outreach communication. By handling these routine tasks, AI helps clinics run more smoothly and efficiently, ensuring professionals spend less time on paperwork and more time with patients.

AI is also revolutionizing prosthetic design and fit. A standout example is the work of Hugh Herr, who is using AI to develop better prosthetic sockets. His system combines AI algorithms with advanced technology to study a patient's limb, helping determine the ideal socket fit and liner design. AI analyzes patterns and pressure distribution, ensuring that each socket is shaped for maximum comfort and function. By processing large amounts of patient data, Herr and his team create personalized algorithms, leading to better-fitting, more effective prosthetic devices ("Hugh Herr's Bionic Skins").

Beyond prosthetic sockets, AI is also being applied in other areas of O&P, such as 3D scanning for custom orthotics. These AI-driven tools allow for more precise measurements, reducing human error and improving patient outcomes.

AI is already making a difference in O&P, but this is just the beginning. As technology continues to expand, we can expect even more advancements—smarter prosthetic devices, better rehabilitation programs, and increased automation in clinics. These innovations will not only improve efficiency but also lead to more personalized and effective patient care.

The impact of AI on O&P is growing every day. How will these advancements continue to reshape the way we care for patients? The possibilities are just beginning.

Works Cited

"Hugh Herr's Bionic Skins: A Breakthrough in Prosthetic Sockets." *Living with Amplitude*, 23 Jan. 2024, <https://livingwithamplitude.com/article/hugh-herr-bionic-skins-prosthetic-socket-amputees/>

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