

Compassionate law

In its flurry of last-minute business, the state Legislature last week struck a blow for parity for those who have suffered the loss of a limb. The new law ensures access to comprehensive health insurance coverage for orthotic and prosthetic care.

“Amputees should be given the opportunity to return to work and to lead productive lives. Without access to prostheses, there is a loss in wages. It makes sense for the state, and it is the right thing to do,” said

Nia Gill, D-Montclair, lead sponsor of the bill.

The law closes an insurance gap faced by those who have lost a limb and cannot afford the prostheses that will allow them to return to their livelihood. It mandates that health-insurance plans offer coverage without caps and co-pays that restrict access to the devices.

New Jersey is in the vanguard with those states that have recognized and addressed this need.