

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Paul G Pinsky
Chair, Senate Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **SUPPORT SB 732** – Health Occupations Athletic Training – Revisions

Dear Chair Pinsky:

Good morning Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair and members of the committee:

I am Ed Strapp the government affairs chairman for the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association. I am here in support of HB 576. This legislation has become a passion of mine since under current guidelines I can't even provide high quality medical care to my own coworkers on the Maryland state police.

Why are we here, our goal of this legislation is to remove antiquated language and undue restrictions of a defined patient population and limited workplace setting which Athletic trainers in the state of Maryland are bound by. We are the only health care provider that are limited by a defined patient population and then restricted to a limited workplace setting. It is this reason that we're here in front of you today with Senate Bill 732. This is not changing our scope of practice; Scope is defined by skills and activities not by Patient Populations or Workplace settings. This does not remove the required physician collaboration and joint Evaluation and treatment protocol which is approved by the Maryland Board of Physician who have complete oversight and final approval of an Athletic Trainers scope.

A name does not doesn't define a profession. A name may be historically significant and describe where they cut their proverbial teeth but over time their education and training are what defines a profession. Athletic training was born on the sidelines, but former athletes, and many other “consumers” has realized that the sports medicine model allows an athletic trainer to provide high quality care in a wide variety of settings

We are working with the opposition groups and have submitted amendments for this 2020 campaign. But remember this is very different legislation from our 2018 campaign based on compromises and agreements which we discussed back in our 2018 campaign.

So, I have told you our goal, remove restrictions to patient populations and workplace settings. We seek to provide great healthcare access. We seek to allow the consumer to make the decision of who they want for their health care provider. We want corporations like Nissan, Volvo (with a plant in Hagerstown MD), Dupont, Delta, Starbucks, Charles Schwab, Grainger, Cola-cola who currently hire Athletic Trainers around the country, but can't use their same medical model in Maryland due to the current practice act.

And let me tell you what we are not seeking:

We are not seeking to change our physician oversight, this is a cornerstone with athletic training around the county, at all levels. We are part of a healthcare team and we have physician oversight which has been in place since initial licensure and continues moving forward.

We are not seeking to move out from the Maryland Board of Physician, they will continue to establish practice standards and scope of practice and they do with numerous other health occupations. They approve all Evaluation and Treatment protocols which clearly define the skills and AT can do, the skills they CAN NOT DO, and they evaluation any specialty skill an AT seeks permission with clear educational competencies.

We are not changing what is a clearly established Scope of Practice. We have added terms for clarity to skills and tasks which an athletic trainer already completes to match the Maryland Practice act with nationally accepted model language for the profession of Athletic Training. Where you perform skills and WHO you perform them on does not change scope of practice? the body doesn't know, or the physiology of a body does not change based on where you work, what you do for a living or how you were injured.

This bill does not mandate anyone hire an Athletic Trainer; it gives them the option. This bill does not mandate who an injured person uses for medical care, that is clearly forbidden in local and national standards.

This bill allows for a consumer driven model for providing the best access to health care for their athletes, employees and self.

It is not the legislator's responsibility to choose a winner or a loser, we ask that you create a level playing field to allow for the best access to healthcare. We ask you allow for the consumer to create demand, and therefore increase jobs.

While I can play the what if game all day long, we are here today to allow athletic trainers provide high quality medical care in the guidance of their education and training standards and that is all we are seeking to do. By remove the restrictions to patient population and

workplace settings because those really have no impact on injuries illnesses, medical conditions or care, you allow trained health care providers to recognized and handle these injuries. That is why I seek your support on behalf the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association for Senate Bill 732

Respectfully,

Edward Strapp

Edward J. Strapp, FP-C, NRP, LAT, ATC
Government Affairs Chairman
Maryland Athletic Trainers Association