

**KAREN LEWIS YOUNG**  
*Legislative District 3A*  
Frederick County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Government Operations  
and Estates and Trusts  
Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 416  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3436 · 301-858-3436  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3436  
Fax 410-841-3412 · 301-858-3412  
Karen.Young@house.state.md.us

*District Office*  
253 East Church Street  
Suite 100  
Frederick, MD 21701  
301-858-3436  
Fax 301-662-8521

**Testimony in Support of HB 576**

**Health Occupations – Athletic Training -- Revisions**

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operation Committee,

**HB 576** provides patient/clients with greater access to wellness promotion, clinical evaluation, examination, diagnosis and emergency care by acknowledging the professional evolution of athletic trainers. This bill expands the definition of “athletic training” to include standards of practice for this health occupation; it repeals certain provisions that limit practice settings; and alters the information required in an evaluation and treatment protocol.

**HB 576** recognizes that the term “athletic trainer” may be a misnomer for the health care professionals who provide treatment and/or services under the direction of or in collaboration with physicians and in accordance with their professional education and training, and state statutes, rules, and regulations.

In the past two decades, the athletic training profession has grown to include educational requirements, standards of practice, state licensure or regulation, and defined oversight protocols. Most athletic trainers graduate from accredited professional programs at the bachelor’s and, increasingly, master’s level.

Of the 50 states, only California has no state regulation of athletic training. Fully 49 states require licensure through a state regulatory board; New York, Hawaii, and South Carolina require state certification. Licensure and certification stipulate that athletic trainers must develop evaluation and treatment protocols working with their supervising physicians. Standards of conduct are also defined by certifying Boards.

Licensed athletic trainers practice in familiar settings such as secondary schools, intercollegiate athletics and professional sports. In addition, patients see athletic trainers in emergency rooms, law enforcement and military sites, occupational and industrial settings, physician offices, hospitals, and performing arts venues. These expanded settings increase client/patient access to prevention, examination, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of emergent, acute, or chronic injuries, and medical conditions—services that are provided by athletic trainers and guiding physicians. Far from “scope of practice” legislation, HB576 expands the variety of settings in which athletic trainers can meet with patients, thereby expanding patient access to care..

**HB576** recognizes what is already a reality in the athletic training profession. Athletic trainers are viewed as highly qualified, multi-skilled health care professionals who work as part of a collaborative, inter-professional health care team. With physicians and other health care professionals, athletic trainers offer injury and/illness prevention, wellness protection, clinical evaluation and diagnosis, immediate and emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation, and organizational and professional health and well-being.

For these reasons, I urge you to support **HB 576**, and I request a favorable report.

Thank you,

Delegate Karen Lewis Young