



February 21, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of SB 711/HB 1016 – Health Occupations – Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling Registration. The athletic training profession has been transitioning the entry level degree to the graduate level. This nationwide transition is almost fully complete as baccalaureate programs may not admit, enroll, or matriculate students into the athletic training program after the start of the 2022 fall term. As the athletic training profession advances, it is expected we will be supported by state legislation in our clinical abilities and content knowledge.

The practice of dry needling is a valid and reliable therapeutic intervention commonly used in the physically active population. Athletic training curricula are built on a foundation of evidence-based practice; therefore, we must teach our students about the best available evidence so they are prepared to enter the workforce. Specifically, here at Towson University, athletic training students have designated class sessions to learn foundational knowledge about dry needling, review current research findings, and discuss specific patient outcomes following a dry needling treatment.

Since the practice has been successfully integrated into patient care, it would be a disservice to not advance the state practice act in this manner. Towson University is a leader in athletic training education and it is my hope to offer opportunities for our students to apply what they are learning in the classroom to their clinical practice. With this bill support, recent graduates would be able to pursue a dry needling certification and integrate into their clinical practice in the state they chose to live and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Emily Hildebrand'.

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