



Bill: SB 711/HB 1016- Health Occupations- Licensed Athletic Trainers- Dry Needling Registration

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Matthew Kabay. I am an athletic trainer from Towson University. I work with dozens of student athletes at Towson University, collaborating with physicians, nutritionists, physical therapists, chiropractors, other athletic trainers on staff, strength coaches, and other healthcare professional to direct, facilitate, and care for these young men and women. I care for orthopedic injuries and collaborate with other healthcare professionals facilitate recovery and nutrition needs. I have taken advanced modality courses for continuing education requirements including dry needling, blood flow restriction training, and joint dysfunctional corrections/manipulations.

Athletic trainers are licensed, board certified health care professionals with, at minimum, a bachelor's degree in athletic training from an accredited institution. More than seventy percent of the profession has a master's degree or higher level of education, and the profession now requires a master's level degree for entry. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities. This bill would allow certain certified and trained athletic trainers to practice dry needling in the State.

There are multiple states that already recognize athletic trainers qualified to perform dry needling. Some of those states require less training compared to the requirements for this particular bill. In my previous job at Arkansas State University, I received dry needling certification by Dr. Ma's Integrative Dry Needling in May of 2018. I used this modality for both acute and chronic injuries as well as recovery purposes for patients with delayed onset muscle soreness. In my experience, dry needling has become an essential modality to help patient's recover from injury and training sessions faster, safely.

For these reasons, Matthew Kabay respectfully requests a favorable vote.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Matthew Kabay at mkabay@towson.edu or 724-833-4954.

Sincerely,

Matthew Kabay ATC, MS, CSCS, SMTTC
Athletic Trainer
Towson University

