

Support Senate Bill 711

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

Hello, My name is Collin Francis I am an Assistant Athletic Trainer for the Baltimore Ravens and The executive director of the non profit Baltimore Area Sports Health Initiative.

I honestly think I have the best job in the world. And most people I meet don't even know it's a job. When Im asked I usually say "when youre watching a game and someone gets hurt, we're the ones that run out. " Most of my friends only see me work when im giving water during a timeout. The truth is we do so much more. Our jobs are to do everything we can to help the ravens players stay safe and return from injury as fast and as strong as they can. After we evaluate and aid in the diagnosis of injury we do all of the treatment, rehab, and return to play work. Unfortunately currently in this state we cant do everything we can to help them return. Adding dry needling to my scope of practice will allow me an opportunity to use an advanced skill to help our ravens athletes.

Previously I served as the Head athletic trainer and director of rehab at Indiana university. My dry needling certification was hosted by IU. For the entire course, lab and lecture, I was learning along side athletic trainers, physical therapists, and chiropractors. For two years I was able to use this technique with the football players. Its been described as a true game changer in patient care. The anatomical basis of the skill really allows an athletic trainer to use their knowledge to its full capacity. We are experts in human movement, experts in the human body. While working in Indiana I found great success in patient outcomes. I was excited and eager to continue this practice when I moved to Baltimore. I pride myself in being innovative and creative when working with the athletes. It is what is needed to give our players a competitive advantage. My job is to have the most players available so that we can win on sundays. With a limited scope of practice in Maryland I am handcuffed in my ability to use alternative methods to heal the body. I am not able to do everything I have been trained to do to help the ravens. This is why i ask for your support of Senate Bill 1016. I appreciate your time and your attention to this issue. I look forward to furthering the discussion and answering any questions you may have.

Collin Francis
611 S Kenwood Ave
Baltimore MD 21224
Assistant Athletic Trainer
Baltimore Ravens