



March 16, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1016 which allows Certified Athletic Trainers to perform a procedure called dry needling as part of their clinical practice.

Dry needling is a treatment modality currently available through other health care providers which has become a valuable treatment option in myofascial and musculoskeletal pain. It involves the passage of thin needles into affected muscles and tissues for release of spasm and myofascial pain. It is a safe, simple procedure that can provide relief for many patients dealing with myofascial pain, especially in situations where other therapeutic modalities have failed.

In my over 20 years of clinical practice in sports medicine, I have had the great fortune to work with many Certified Athletic Trainers. This experience of working so closely with these providers has given me a firsthand and very clear understanding of their education, skill sets and clinical acumen. It is exceedingly clear to me that Certified Athletic Trainers possess the necessary prerequisites, and that with additional training and certification, will be more than capable of utilizing dry needling appropriately and prudently within their scope of practice. I would have no reservation acting as a supervising physician for a Certified Athletic Trainer who performs dry needling. As such, it is without reservation that I support passage of Bill 1016 and recommend that dry needling be added to the scope of practice for Certified Athletic Trainers in the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

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