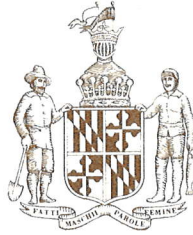


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Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 7, 2023

**SB 232**

**Health Occupations – Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling Approval**

Good Afternoon Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier and members of Finance;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB232, Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling Approval. Last year this same bill, SB711 passed the Senate by a vote of 45 to 1 however time did not allow it to get out of the House.

This is an important bill for our state athletic trainers (AT's), athletes and educational institutions in the State. It establishes a licensing process for athletic trainers to perform dry needling similar to that of Physical Therapists, Chiropractors and Acupuncturists. This bill requires Athletic Trainer's to meet or exceed the same requirements as other providers. It is important to note that COMAR already states that Dry Needling is different from acupuncture.

Dry needling is performed, where allowed by state law, by a number of providers including Athletic Trainers, physicians, nurses, physical therapist, chiropractors and acupuncturists. There are 28 other States and the District of Columbia that already allow an athletic trainer to perform dry needling when they are treating their athletes.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB 232.