

Kina Ingram, ATS
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Position: SUPPORT

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

I am writing in support of SB 232/HB 172 – Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling Approval

Athletic Trainers are licensed and board-certified healthcare professionals that have been known to provide care and prevention to different patients that come from different backgrounds. More than 70% of the profession has a master's degree or higher education from an accredited institution. They have been using different modalities to help provide a proper standard of care. Modalities that are commonly used are ultrasound, whirlpool, laser, traction, massage, etc. They provide the patient with different relief when it comes to their healing process. Currently, athletic trainers are unable to dry needling due to it not being included in the MD Practice Act. Dry needling is a modality used when hands and fingers are unable to palpate all the soft deeper layers of muscles. This modality can help athletic trainers to provide a higher standard of care to their patients.

As an athletic training student, I think it is important that athletic trainers can provide the best care possible to their athletes. By not being able to dry needling they are limiting their care to their patients. Maryland athletes are at a disadvantage when it comes to receiving care. Maryland athletes are forced to intervene with their demanding class and practice schedules to receive dry needling outside of the athletic training facility. Passing this bill would allow certain Athletic Trainers the ability to administer dry needling to their patients, which many may have done in another state before coming to Maryland.

Additionally, Athletic Trainers who work for national governing bodies and US Olympic teams are guided by their home state practice act. So, limiting dry needling from Athletic Trainers licensed in Maryland will also have a potential international impact and could limit local Athletic Trainers from being selected as Health Care Providers supporting these athletes.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable vote on both HB 172 and SB 232.

Sincerely,
Kina Ingram, ATS