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Finance Committee

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Spending Affordability Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management of
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SB 232

Health Occupations – Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling Approval

Good Afternoon Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of Health & Government Operations Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB232, Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling Approval. SB232 passed the Senate by a vote of 44 to 1.

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.

SB 232 is the cross-file of HB 172, that passed the House. HB 172 does include a technical amendment which strikes "or a mechanical device" in the definition of dry needling. We are supportive of this amendment.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB 232 with the House amendment.