

**June 2, 2020**  
**HB 484 Opponent Testimony**  
**House Health Committee**

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd and all members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 484.

I am writing with concerns and opposition to a few of the proposed changes to the Athletic Trainers (AT) scope of practice legislation, HB 484. My concerns are with the intention of removing “athletic injury” from the scope and adding “activities of daily living” to the definition of their practice. As a prior athletic trainer, I clearly see the role that the AT plays in today’s health care continuum. I have worked with Athletic Trainers for the majority of my professional career and appreciate the expertise they bring to athletic/sports injuries, prevention of injuries and urgent and emergent care of the athlete on a field, court or competition floor. My concern is that the current proposed legislation attempts to move the athletic trainer from their current scope of licensure and proficiency to areas where they do not have the training, knowledge or aptitude. As I look back on my education and curriculum in athletic training, nothing prepared me specifically to evaluate or treat activities of daily living. I was strongly prepared to identify and treat an athletic injury, safely prepare an athlete to return to competitive sport and educate athletes on methods to prevent further or future injury.

In clinical settings like an outpatient Physical Therapy clinic, the AT practices as an extension, and under the supervision of the PT. This is a similar yet more focused role to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA). With impending federal changes to Physical Therapist Assistant and Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) reimbursement, this feels like an attempt to circumvent that reimbursement change by allowing Athletic Trainers to practice more in the scope and role of a PTA or OTA while avoiding payment cuts.

**My overarching concern is for our patients and the quality of care they receive.** I do not see this proposed change to AT scope as any improvement in the quality of care a patient will receive and believe that this may bring and decrease in quality while increasing overall cost of care.

Thank you for your consideration of opposing the components of this legislature that would remove “athletic injury” and add “activities of daily living” to the scope of practice of the Ohio Athletic Trainers.

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