

June 1, 2020

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd and all members of the House House Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give opponent testimony on House Bill 484. My name is Dr. Scott Euype, and I am writing on behalf of myself as an Ohio practicing physical therapist and as the Education Director for Cleveland Clinic Rehabilitation and Sports Therapy. I have been a physical therapist for 33 years in the state of Ohio. I work with over 1000 rehabilitation professionals, including athletic trainers, and physical therapists, at the Cleveland Clinic, where I have been employed for the past 20-years.

I work very closely with athletic trainers, who I believe are professional and highly educated, and the most qualified health care professional to work with care of sports injuries and injured athletes. I oversee the internal competency training of the athletic trainers, at the Cleveland Clinic, and in the post graduate athletic training residency program that we offer to our athletic training staff. I have worked collaboratively with Athletic trainers across my 33 year career and the scope of responsibilities of a Physical Therapist and Athletic Trainers is vastly different. The athletic trainers spend the majority of their time with the community athletes of high schools, colleges and professionals in our region.

Because of that, I am writing to you today, to in oppose the proposed bill that removes reference to athletic injury from the definition of athletic training, and removing the definition of athletic injury from the Revised Code. The proposed removal of “athletic injuries” and substitution of “injuries resulting from physical or activities of daily living,” is concerning, as their academic and clinical training curriculum is focused primarily on the rehabilitation of athletic injuries. I do not believe that the athletic trainer is competent or educated in the areas of examining and treating patients with underlying neurologic conditions, or patients diagnosed with cancer, who may have multiple post treatment comorbidities. My extensive experience working with athletic trainers has also shown me that they are not trained sufficiently enough to understand the biomechanics of movement and to be able to evaluate safely and efficiently with patients diagnosed with complex orthopedic issues such as back or neck pain.

Their current academic training with many hours spent on an athletic venue or in the training room does not expose them to these complex medical individuals. This is a major contrast to a

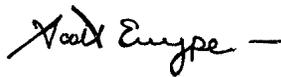
Physical Therapist, who has doctoral training with patients having neurologic, cardiovascular, integumentary, and complex musculoskeletal conditions.

While the profession of athletic training is moving to a Master's Degree program, the transition has not occurred yet. The change to a Master's degree has not added education in the areas needed to appropriately care for patients as described in the proposed HB 484. Until that is added, I do not believe that athletic trainers can safely treat the public as described in the proposed bill.

Let me reiterate that I am supportive of athletic trainers examining, and treating injured athletes, because of their training. I am not in support of athletic trainers examining and treating injuries resulting from physical or activities of daily living.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, if you should have any questions regarding my statements.

Thank you,



Dr. Scott Euype