



June 2, 2020  
HB 484 Opponent Testimony  
House Health Committee

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd and all members of the House House Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on House Bill 484. OPTA represents nearly 4,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students of physical therapy in Ohio and is part of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), representing more than 107,000 members nationwide.

The OPTA certainly appreciates the intent of the Ohio Athletic Trainers Association and the bill sponsors to update the practice act for the profession. However, our association is opposed to a proposal that removes reference to athletic injury from the definition of athletic training, and removing the definition of athletic injury from the Revised Code. The scope of injuries that could be covered by the currently proposed definition does not reflect the training and education that ATs currently receive. This is especially concerning with the removal of practice settings as proposed by HB 484.

The OPTA has been in communication with the Ohio Athletic Training Association about the language. We appreciate the new version of HB 484 before you does reflect some of the changes we have requested. However, the "athletic injury" removal continues to be a road block for OPTA to be able to move to neutral on the bill. We are not clear on how the current language in the Ohio Revised Code is a barrier for Athletic Trainers to practice and work with their patients. Our analysis of the bill is that by removing the term "athletic injury" the scope of injury is very broad under the proposal in HB 484. We feel strongly that term must remain in the practice act for athletic trainers.

However, there are things in the bill we can support. The language allowing ATs to administer certain drugs makes sense, and we understand why the current language is a barrier to appropriately and quickly treating an injured athlete. This was an issue that was highlighted by local media and the bill sponsors, and we are pleased to be able to support that. That provision seems like a meaningful update.

Another small point to refine is the referral language--we would suggest an amendment regarding ATs referring to another AT. We believe those intraprofessional referrals should be predicated on the fact the athletic training has already been referred and recommended by another provider listed in 4755.621 (B)(1). It is our understanding this comment is incorporated into the new version of HB 484, and we thank the OATA and bill sponsors for agreeing with that change.

Thank you for your consideration of the OPTA perspective on HB 484.

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