

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking member Boyd and member of the House Health Committee. I am writing to you to oppose HB484. I am not an athletic trainer, or physical therapist or even a doctor. I write to give you an additional information to consider for someone with nothing to gain by coming forward.

I read the testimony of Dr. Nilesh Shar from Summa Health Sports Medicine. Let me tell you a couple of stories about one of his athletic trainers. My grandson has played basketball for years. There are 2 situations that came out of last year's season that really upset me. One evening a young man was coming down the floor running quite fast and there was some interaction and he hit the padded wall so hard the entire crowd gasped. He looked dazed. The trainer came to him and sat him down and spoke to him for less than 1 minute. Within 5 minutes he was back in the game. This upset me. The trainer should have performed a SCAT card. This card is a concussion protocol. It takes more than 5 minutes just to perform it. It was not done and that young man should not have gone back in the game until it he passed the scat card.

Another time my grandson had hurt his ankle and he came in to see my boss a chiropractor board certified in rehab to look at his ankle. He examined him and gave him specific exercise to do to strengthen specific muscles that were weakened. The same trainer got upset with my grandson for seeking treatment with the doctor. His parents were correct in sending him to a physician to get a handle on the situation but the trainer is opposed to it? The trainer knows better than the parent and a chiropractor who has been in practice for almost 30 years?

Then there is the testimony of Brian Hertz. He boasts that he is an athletic trainer and he has trained physical therapist and chiropractors across the United States on advanced practice manual therapy skills. I find that statement had to believe. I have worked for a chiropractor for 13 years and I have never seen a time when an athletic trainer is presenting at a seminar "advance practice manual therapy". The other part of his testimony that bothers me is his plea to allow then to dispense medications prescribed by a physician. Physical therapist do not administer pain medications and they have their own malpractice insurance unlike the athletic trainers who are under the physicians malpractice insurance. Under this bill they would still be under the direction of a physician. A physician who has not seen the athlete and is only using a trainer basically as his eyes and ears. Not acceptable.

Another part of the previous testimony I object to is the statement by Ben Bring, "As mentioned previously, it is essential that we consider these necessary changes to the state practice that has not been updated since 1991. The profession of athletic trainers has evolved significantly in the past 30 years and we need to ensure that our athletic trainers are able to practice at the top of their license." What? You have to add allowing them to be able to pass medication in order for them to practice at the top of their license? Or allow them to treat other illnesses or injuries? Also, chiropractic medicine was established in Ohio in the 1970's and those laws have not had a major "update" either. Do you realize that athletic trainers cannot working in California?

I recently compared the curriculum of an athletic trainer and a physical therapist at the same school. The athletic trainer requires a bachelor's degree then their training includes human anatomy, therapeutic modalities, management and prevention of injuries, pharmacology and current diagnosis and treatment a total of 60 hours. The physical therapist however requires a bachelor's degree and then the training includes biomechanics, pharmacology, therapeutic exercise, neuromuscular physical therapy, orthotics and prosthetics for a total of 100 hours. This also includes 32 weeks of internship a

practice that athletic trainers do not do. At Ohio State the Athletic trainer curriculum is an undergraduate program, but the physical therapy program is a graduate program. Not the same. An athletic trainer is not the same as a physical therapist and you should not change their licensure.

Finally, to allow them to work on other types of injuries sounds to me like they want to be physical therapists and not “athletic trainers”. Athletic trainers have set themselves apart from physical therapists as a specialized trainer for the athlete and now all of a sudden, they are just as good for regular people with complex medical issues? They are trying to change their scope not improve their scope. This sounds more like there are a limited number of jobs out there, so let’s try and take some work away from physical therapists. Please do not change their licensure.

Catherine Morrison

Just a grandmother